



Daily Report

East Europe

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Izetbegovic Arrives in Geneva for Peace Talks

AU2607191893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina
Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Nada al-Isa report from Geneva]

[Excerpts] As soon as President Izetbegovic of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency arrived in Geneva, everyone wanted to hold separate talks with him before tomorrow's continuation of talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina. As we report, Tadeus Mazowiecki, chairman of the U.N. Commission for Human Rights, has asked for talks with the president, while late this evening President Izetbegovic is to meet Lord Owen at his, that is, Lord Owen's request. As for the topics to be discussed, nothing has yet been announced, but we have found out that Mazowiecki has received complete reports on the events in central Bosnia. There is speculation in Geneva, at least among the correspondents, that he wants to hear the president's views. [passage omitted]

As far as we know, the Presidency members are to attend the talks with the proposal for a unitary [jedinstvena] Bosnia-Herzegovina within its internationally recognized borders. Miro Lasic hopes that Geneva will bring a new common state, while the Bosnia-Herzegovina Parliament Chairman Miro Lazovic believes that the protagonists of war have finally realized that war cannot solve anything, and that all the battles are lost battles. I believe, Lazovic says, that [word indistinct] negotiations and compromise would lead to a solution that would suit all the citizens and peoples of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Presidency Member Mirko Pejanovic is also in favor of compromise. He says: These talks should lead to a political accord that will preserve the state and peace. That is the most important thing now. Bosnia needs peace—and he put it descriptively—as dry ground needs rain. Bosnia is now a country of graves. The continuation of war would mean thousands of new graves. Therefore, Mirko Pejanovic says, he who wants war has to explain to the people that there will be more sacrifices, but also has to take on the responsibility for new victims.

Therefore, the members of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Presidency—and representatives of all the nations and minorities have also arrived—are optimistic prior to the continuation of the Geneva talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

This is Nada al-Isa reporting from Geneva for Radio Television of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

'Last Chance' Peace Summit Begins

AU2707100893 Paris AFP in English 0946 GMT
27 Jul 93

[Text] Geneva, July 26 (AFP) - Peace mediators Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg began bilateral talks here Tuesday as the prelude to a marathon all-party peace summit seen as the last chance for a negotiated settlement to the bloody conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The joint chairmen of the peace conference on the former Yugoslavia began talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton's envoy Reginald Bartholomew and were also to meet Russian deputy foreign minister Vitaly Churkin, conference spokesman John Mills said.

The opening session would be followed at noon (1000 GMT) by bilateral talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, his Montenegrin counterpart Momir Bulatovic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, Mills added.

Owen and Stoltenberg were then due to meet Alija Izetbegovic, president of the mainly-Moslem Bosnians, at 2:00 p.m. following a meeting between the three Monday night, the spokesman added.

The co-chairmen were to end the afternoon session in discussions with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban, Mills said.

The Bosnian delegation of Izetbegovic and six other members of his 10-strong multiethnic collective presidency met early Tuesday to draft a proposition to turn Bosnia into a federation of regions not based on ethnic divisions, a delegate said. The Bosnian Serbs and Croats are proposing a rival plan to divide the republic into a confederation of three mini-states split along ethnic lines.

No plenary session was planned Tuesday and organisers were uncertain how long Tudjman and Milosevic would be staying in Geneva, Mills added. Mills stressed that Owen and Stoltenberg wished the talks to continue until an accord was reached.

For the co-chairmen, the key presence at the talks is that of Izetbegovic, who had refused to attend an earlier round of talks in Geneva.

Since June 16 Izetbegovic has refused to countenance the Serbs' and Croats' proposals on splitting up the war-torn republic. He demanded an end to fighting on the ground and the reconnection of essential water and electricity supplies to Sarajevo as a condition for attending the new talks. But despite clashes in defiance of a truce which came into effect Sunday, Izetbegovic and his presidency colleagues were the first to arrive in this Swiss lakeside city Monday.

Milosevic and Bulatovic were arriving Tuesday accompanied by Karadzic, the rump Yugoslavia's U.N. mission in Geneva said.

Boban has also confirmed his attendance, peace conference spokesman John Mills said.

The talks will mark the first time since a peace conference early May in Athens that Izetbegovic, Karadzic and Boban have attended the same negotiations. Owen and Stoltenberg are hoping agreement is reached swiftly, Mills said.

The co-chairmen argue that speed is of the essence to pave the way for an aid operation to reach the 2.3 million victims of the conflict before the onset of winter, and because each day of fighting increases the problems the military leaders have in controlling their local commanders.

The most contentious issue is the division of Bosnia, but that would not be broached immediately, Mills said.

Croatian Envoy Views Vienna Talks on Krajina

AU2607133893 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German
26 Jul 93 p 3

[Interview with Special Envoy Slavko Degoricija, head of the Croatian delegation to the Vienna Krajina negotiations, by unidentified reporter in Vienna; date not given: "The Serbs Do Not Want To Advance a Single Step; They Want To Gain Time"]

[Text] [Reporter] Prior to the Croatian military operation in January, there was a cease-fire between Croatia and Krajina. Why should the Krajina Serbs now sign a new agreement that does not contain any concessions for a withdrawal of the Croats from the mixed zones?

[Degoricija] The document that the Serbian delegation in Vienna refused to sign envisaged nothing else but the modalities of the cease-fire. This cease-fire is the prerequisite for everything else. The document was drafted in Geneva by experts of the international conference and UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force]. It is a totally new document and unrelated to any other document.

At first, the Serbs were cooperative, and we were already talking about the champagne that we were going to have. The next day, however, they unexpectedly refused to continue the negotiations on the draft. They had two conversations with Knin and then started discussing other issues and set conditions for the signing that no one was ready to accept.

[Reporter] Why are the Serbs doing this?

[Degoricija] Jarcevic (the "foreign minister" of the republic of Serbian Krajina—editorial board) made it definitely clear in Geneva. He said that none of the UN resolutions on Croatia are acceptable to the Serbs. He mentioned many reasons for this, even the embargo against what is left of Yugoslavia. However, the real reason is the idea of a Greater Serbia.

One thing is sure. As long as the world public and the United Nations do not demand that the Security Council resolutions be implemented, the Serbs will not change. They will dodge their responsibility, because they do not want to advance a single step. In this way, they will gain time. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, they seize new territories every day.

[Reporter] Do you believe that the Serbs who live in Krajina today were also born there?

[Degoricija] There are 145,000 Serbs in Krajina today, and 250,000 in the part of Croatia that is not occupied. Many Serbs have left their home country since the beginning of the war and have gone to Serbia or to the West. Many people in the security zones have been imported from Serbia, above all the military, of course. There are volunteers from Serbia, Bosnia, and Macedonia in Krajina. Recently, 40 military officers came to Lika (northwestern part of Krajina—editorial board) whose salaries are paid by Belgrade.

Criminals who are sentenced to prison terms are excused two years of prison for each year they serve in the army in Krajina. In reality, their army consists of several semi-private armies. Their chief negotiator here in Vienna, Kosta Novakovic, is, for instance, the leader of the "army of the republic of Serbian Krajina."

[Reporter] President Tudjman talks about understanding with the Serbs time and again. What does he mean by that?

[Degoricija] As long as the two states do not recognize each other, there will be no peace in the Balkans. No matter how we see the matter, Croats and Serbs are neighbors. We know that. For 130 years, the problem of the Serbs and Croats has been the key issue in the Balkans, the key to peace, not only in the Balkans, not only in the former Yugoslavia, but in all of Europe. Europe should accept this and should not be opposed to such understanding.

However, there are no accords; for instance, there are no accords on the partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina. That is a well considered propaganda lie, which is intended to hold Croatia equally responsible for the situation as Serbia.

[Reporter] UN observers reported last week that regular units of the Croat Army had marched into Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Degoricija] That is disinformation. People who do not mean well want to put us on the same level as the Serbian aggressor.

[Reporter] The reports come from UN observers.

[Degoricija] Why should UN people not be prejudiced against Croatia? The blue helmets and observers come from many different countries. Croatia cannot leave its interest in the Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina out of account. But it keeps within accepted limits. We cooperate with international bodies, and we do not carry out any military intervention.

The Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina were the first to organize their defense against the Serbs. Now those whom we helped in the beginning to defend themselves—the Muslims—have become aggressors against the Croats. That is almost self-destruction.

[Reporter] How will things continue?

[Degoricija] I believe in positive developments. Those who say the Yugoslav problem is an ethnic conflict do not know the problem. It is a classic example of an imperialist war of conquest. There are only a few examples in history of such a cruel, destructive, and criminal conflict. Such a brutal war, such a brutal conquest is not an ethnic war.

Croatia is a young state, and we do not have enough friends in the world. Nobody knows that we form part of European civilization, even though 70 years ago we were united with a totally different civilization. We are aware that it will take much effort to convince the world that we are different from the rest of Yugoslavia.

Foreign Ministry Assesses Property Abroad

AU2607164693 Sofia BTA in English 1514 GMT
26 Jul 93

[Text] Sofia, July 26 (BTA)—Bulgaria has property in 71 countries and the income it yielded last year taken alone amounts to over four million dollars, Mr. Emiliyan Apostolov, chief secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and chairman of the Interdepartmental Commission on Bulgaria's Property Abroad, told a press conference today.

The management of Bulgaria's property abroad is aimed at maximum efficiency, Mr. Apostolov said speaking about the concept on which the commission's work is based. Bulgaria does not want to sell its property, it wants to use it in the most beneficial way. Mr. Apostolov stressed several aspects in coping with that task. It is of primary importance to find the best way of acquiring the property which Bulgaria needs for its diplomatic presence in certain priority states such as South Korea, South Africa, Slovakia, Croatia and the former Soviet republics, he said.

Mr. Apostolov believes that property sales should be an exception, this should be done only in case a given country proves to be not prospect-holding in the long range. There is a well-established practice of property swaps for some objective or subjective reasons, but in such cases Bulgaria always insists on getting property of equal value.

Another way of managing the Bulgarian property in foreign countries is renting superfluous premises in places where the Bulgarian diplomatic establishments have been reduced: That is what happened with Bulgaria's property in Berlin, Vienna, Prague, Warsaw and Budapest. As to the contract with the Brum and Rott Company which made a lot of noise at the time, the commission decided that its terms were unfavourable for the Bulgarian side. Mr. Apostolov hopes that a way of terminating the contract without referring the matter to a law court has already been found.

It became clear that Bulgaria's income from its property abroad is credited to extrabudgetary accounts handled by the minister of finance. It is the wish of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that the funds be used for the purchase of property in countries which Bulgaria believes should be prioritized. Bulgaria have its largest property in Moscow, New York, London and Paris, Mr. Apostolov said.

Tomov Explains Civil Alliance Intentions, Goals

AU2607175293 Sofia VECHERNI NOVINI in
Bulgarian 19-20 Jul p 4

[Interview with Aleksandur Tomov, leader of the Civil Alliance for the Republic, by Rozalina Evdokimova; place and date not given: "Aleksandur Tomov: 'I Struggled for the BSP With My Teeth and Nails'"]

[Excerpts] [Evdokimova] Mr. Tomov, did you not plan to leave the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] a long time ago? Was forming the Civil Alliance for the Republic [GOR] not just a pretext?

[Tomov] The GOR is not a pretext, it is a reason. The GOR is not a single person but an organization. The truth is that the GOR was registered on the basis of the Law on Persons and Families, which means that it is a movement. However, I would like to say immediately that various claims were presented to the GOR leaders. This is totally logical, because people from several parties became GOR members. There are disappointed former members from the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS], the Liberals Party, the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party, and the "Ecoglasnost" political club. In other words, there was a whole group of people who demanded that the cochairmen leave the political structures, whose members they were. This placed me in a special situation, because it would not have been honest not only toward those people, but also to the BSP, if I had maintained some tacit presence in that party. This is the reason. I do not seek conflicts or wars with anyone. I simply try to help in a new manner, something I could not do very well until now. This especially applies to the last 18 months, when I was isolated from practically everything within the BSP. [passage omitted]

[Evdokimova] You sent a letter to the Alliance for Social Democracy [OSD]. They received your letter but did not accept your ideas.

[Tomov] This is normal but illogical. There are wonderful people in the OSD. I am puzzled by the fact that they accept my arguments, because if they accept my arguments they should also accept the criticism I leveled at the OSD leadership. I think that there is a direct link between arguments and a decision. I would like to stress that I have no justification to stay idle while the country is in such a state. Even if I contribute 1 percent to a certain solution it would be enough. If I fail, I lose only myself. I do not accuse anybody and do not want anything from anyone. As far as my presence in the parliamentary faction is concerned, I will continue conscientiously to implement my constitutional duties as a deputy.

[Evdokimova] If I remember correctly, last year at the OSD conference your statement was very similar to what you state now is the GOR position. Then, since the OSD exists, was the GOR really necessary?

[Tomov] This shows that you have discovered something I would like to explain. I think that I am consistent in my deeds. If the BSP would have turned into a national-type party, in other words, an open party, and if it would have made a bolder turn toward the leftist center, then it would not have been necessary to found the GOR. There simply would have been a bipolar model.

Now the situation is different. In front of our eyes the number of people who say "we do not want both big parties" grows daily. The mistrust of the population for

politicians has assumed colossal dimensions. At present only 11 percent of those polled have confidence in the parliament. More than 50 percent no longer support the two main political forces, while in 1990 they were supported by 97-98 percent of the people. There is no political center. [passage omitted]

[Evdokimova] The GOR already is a fact. Will you demand that it become a political party?

[Tomov] I still do not have an answer to this question. This is the position that I openly supported at the GOR leadership. If the GOR takes off, if the people feel that there is a need for it, the possibility of turning the GOR into a political party is a real one. There are many people in the GOR who want this. They think that if GOR becomes a party this will attract more people, because then they will see a real reason to join the GOR. However, at present it is much more important for the GOR to work on its program and specific ideas. It must do what is necessary for our society. Afterward, on the basis of the GOR's ideas, society will assess whether it has a future or not. Otherwise, the GOR will become the 139th political party in Bulgaria, and I will never participate in something like this.

BSP Urged To Assume Responsibility

AU2607161093 Sofia KONTINENT in Bulgarian
22 Jul 93 p 8

[Georgi Asyov commentary: "Let BSP Not Pretend That It Is in Opposition"]

[Text] The Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] not only supports the government, but it also is the leading party with all responsibilities that spring from this fact. Those responsibilities are simply incomparable with those of its allies in the leading coalition—the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [DPS] and the handful of former deputies of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS].

The BSP not only is the major parliamentary power, but it also has a great participation in all the structures of power (except the Presidency)—from the "depoliticized" institutions through the ministries, departments, enterprises, and so on, to the last mayorship in the country. The SDS fired several thousands of BSP people, but in the state structures there still are hundreds of thousands of people selected by the Bulgarian Communist Party, as the BSP claims, according to purely professional criteria.

Under such circumstances, again controlling the executive power in a country where almost everything is led and moved by its cadres, the BSP also is responsible for everything—from the progress of the reforms to the lack of water in the most remote village. It would be appropriate if the BSP openly takes in its hands several ministries which suit its profile, for example, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, in order to put into effect some of its promises to the unemployed, deprived pensioners, and so on. In addition, why should it not

condemn those responsible for the communist repressions, economic disaster, and the foreign debt billions?

Drug Traffic Control Council Established

AU2607204293 Sofia BTA in English 1855 GMT
26 Jul 93

[Text] Sofia, July 26 (BTA)—A National Council for Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking Control was set up as a working body with the Council of Ministers today. It will be responsible for coordinating the activity of state institutions concerning narcotics and the raw materials they are extracted from: Their production, processing, storage, use, trade, import and export and accounting.

Illicit drug trafficking through Bulgaria has been increasing. Until 1977, hashish was the main substance trafficked. Since then there has been a tendency to traffic heroin and some other narcotic substances mainly. In 1992 the customs authorities registered 47 cases of drug trafficking and seized 374 kg of narcotics, mostly heroin, the Bulgarian delegation reported at the Geneva meeting on the problems of drug trafficking held in February this year which was attended by police and customs chiefs from 35 countries, Interpol and the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

"Narcobusiness is flourishing in Bulgaria, there are cases of this illicit activity every day," Ms. Aleksandrina Nencheva, chief of the National Service for Narcotic Drugs Control, pointed out in an interview for PARI some months ago. "There are dummies carrying on illicit trade in unaesthetic and psychotropic substances and raw materials for their production. Most often the drugs are reexported," she said further on. According to experts of the National Service for Narcotic Drugs Control, there is quite a number of illegal private laboratories making narcotics at full blast, according to PARI. This is the reason for the UN note which said that the import of certain psychotropic substances in Bulgaria exceeded its medical needs by far.

The National Council For drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking Control established today will work in compliance with the Council of Ministers' regulations to be drawn up by September 30. The council will be chaired by the minister of health. It will have as its members the deputy ministers of the interior, science and education, finance, justice, trade, industry, foreign affairs, defense, agriculture and transport.

Government Issues Decree on 1993 Budget

AU2607204493 Sofia BTA in English 1932 GMT
26 Jul 93

[Text] Sofia, July 26 (BTA)—The Council of Ministers issued a decree on the implementation of the 1993 National Budget. The decree is part of the normal procedure required to proceed with the application of the Budget Act, Deputy Minister of Finance Dimitur Kostov told the mass media at the Council of Ministers'

press office. The decree sets out the rules for the quarterly distribution of funds and the additional funds allocated by parliament to health care, education and the social sphere.

The government set the minimum purchase prices for the 1993 crop of tobacco depending on its type, origin and class. The purchase price offered for first-class tobacco corresponds to the possibility of selling it in the international market. The minimum purchase prices are increased by about 10-15 percent compared with last year. The extremely low purchase prices are going to ruin about 80,000 families who have only tobacco growing to rely on for their incomes, the Union of Tobacco Growers pointed out at a conference last week. Tobacco is grown mostly in southeastern Bulgaria, mainly populated by ethnic Turks. As a result of the low purchase prices, the areas under tobacco crops have decreased three-fold over the last decade.

The cabinet ministers decided to propose to the National Assembly to ratify the bilateral agreement on the consolidation and rescheduling of the Bulgarian foreign debt concluded by Bulgaria and France within the framework of the Paris Club.

The government endorsed a program for the redistribution of funds granted by operation PHARE [Economic and Reconstruction Aid for Poland and Hungary] for the 1993-1995 period, the program prioritizes the private sector which will receive ecu 24 million, the social

sphere—which is to receive ecu 25.5 million, and infrastructure—it will receive ecu 28 million.

After the update of their assets appraisal, the government decided to increase the statutory capital of commercial partnership engaged in the production of an trade in products for military and special uses. The decision concerns 15 companies.

The ministers decided to appoint a commission which would propose measures for the cutting of spending by simplifying the procedures, the documents and the structure of data in the sphere of the state authorities and foreign trade transactions and by ensuring the possibility for computer exchange of information. The commission will have to elaborate national standards of this type of activity.

The government authorized Bulgaria's Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Ognyan Pishev, to sign an agreement with the World Bank in Washington on a loan of 30 million dollars for the Bulgarian telecommunications company. The money will be used to improve the national radio relay system.

The government set up a commission on the distribution and use of state administration buildings in the country. Its chairman is the Minister of Regional Development and Construction Mr. Khristo Totev.

By proposal of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the government approved a list of 113 children granting each of the right to receive an inherited invalidity pension of 405 leva per month.

Inflation Slowing, Prices Stabilizing

*LD2607152293 Prague CTK in English 1230 GMT
26 Jul 93*

[Text] Prague, July 26 (CTK)—June consumer prices in the Czech Republic increased 0.4 per cent over May despite the fact that the results from both May and June show the lowest growth dynamics since the beginning of this year and point to a growing relative price stability.

According to the Czech Statistical Office (CSU), significant changes were registered in June in the area of foodstuffs. After a three month steady decline, prices increased 0.2 per cent in June over May.

In comparison with December 1992, consumer prices rose 12.1 per cent, the most significant being in the area of services and public catering where prices increased by some 18 per cent.

Prices of industrial products increased 0.2 per cent in June compared with March.

Prices of agricultural products were 1.8 per cent higher in June than in the same period of 1992.

Havel Explains Signing of Anticommunist Law

*AU2607131293 Prague CTK in English 2155 GMT
22 Jul 93*

[Text] Prague July 22 (CTK)—Czech President Vaclav Havel said on Czech Television tonight that he signed the anti-communist law after long and prudent contemplation.

The anti-communist law, which declares the illegitimacy of the former communist regime and defines the status of opposition against it, was passed by the parliament on July 9.

Havel said that he had arrived at conclusion that the anti-communist law was regular from the legal point of view, and it contravened neither the Czech Constitution nor the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms.

I consider it very unlikely that I would ever regret my signing this law, he said.

I think that the law is very important because it says clearly that something ended, something is beginning, and that it (the law) is a sort of guideline for our legislation, Havel said.

Its another contribution rests in the fact that the supreme representative office says in it to all victims of communism, to everybody who had resisted it, that they have respect of the society due to them, Havel said. It is a pity that this did not happen earlier, he added.

Havel pointed out that already three years ago, he had expressed himself for a declaration similar to the present anti-communist law, which would be a basis for all further legislation.

The anti-communist law markedly differs from the screening one, Havel stressed. I had serious reservations about the screening law, which concerned not the law's intention or principles, but its numerous shortcomings, insufficient protection of personality, he added.

However, as president, I had only right to initiate the legislation, therefore I proposed an amendment to the law just parallelly with signing it, Havel explained.

The screening law, adopted by the Czechoslovak federal parliament in October 1991, bans from high government and economic posts until 1996 people linked to the former communist-run StB secret police, high Communist Party officials and members of the People's Militia.

In an interview published by the Polish daily GAZETA WYBORCZA on July 18, Havel said that he would not have signed such a law today. Having no veto right at the time as Czechoslovak president, he was unable to prevent the bill from passing, and by refusing to sign it, he would have only expressed his rebellion, he explained in the paper. Such a political act would have resulted in a fruitless tension between the parliament and president, he was quoted as saying.

Klaus Comments on Uhde's Privatization Affair

*AU2607154493 Prague TELEGRAF in Czech 23 Jul 93
pp 1, 3*

[Interview with Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus by Viktor Krejci; place and date not given: "I Do Not See That the Parliament Chairman Benefited in any Way; Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus Comments for TELEGRAF on Milan Uhde 'Scandal'"]

[Text] The controversy surrounding Chamber of Deputies chairman Milan Uhde, who in his previous position sent to the then privatization minister a letter regarding the Ceska Kniha Co. [Czech Book (wholesale) Co.] project, in which his wife has a stake, is in full swing.

The project concerns the solution to the problem of the large inventory of books in the warehouses of distribution enterprises. Demands have even been voiced in some media and in the Association for the Republic-Republican Party of Czechoslovakia statement that Milan Uhde resign from his post. We asked Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus to comment on this issue.

[Krejci] Mr. Prime Minister, how do you feel about these resignation demands?

[Klaus] I am not a detective to investigate the justification of this or that scandal, but it seems to me that in this instance, it is an artificial and unnecessary affair.

What bothers me most, however, is the fashion that has spread here. What I mean are contemplations of the type: "I do not like something, let this or that person resign." Just over the past week, we could read demands for the resignations of Milan Uhde, Mr. Lux, Jan Ruml, and I am certain that I forgot some.

Nevertheless, I believe that this is not the way. We have the standard mechanisms of a parliamentary democracy, so let this or that person apply his criticism in an appropriate and adequate form. Formal demands by means of the media that various people resign really do not lead anywhere and usually do not consider the essence of the problem.

[Krejci] Is it not rather puzzling if someone bases his accusation of greed for personal gain solely on such a letter as Uhde wrote? It would be a different matter if someone could show some specific illegal benefits, or at least some steps in such a direction.

[Klaus] Since I do not know the letter in question, I can only speak in general. Nevertheless, I maintain: I do not see that the parliament chairman benefited in any way, and that would be the only reason for the abuse of the post of the minister of culture. On the other hand, I do see the minister's attempts to solve the problem of an enormous overstock of badly-selling books that after November 1989 acquired an entirely new meaning and economic value. I am simply not aware of any reason for deducing from this some wrongdoing.

[Krejci] Do you also have this feeling that behind such "scandals" might be a certain peculiar longing of some people to destroy those who bask in prosperity?

[Klaus] Such a Czech envy really is a characteristic feature, and instead of everybody attempting to equal those more successful by increasing his or her efforts, it has always been a fashion here to try and blacken them and cut them down to one's own level. Unfortunately, we did not overcome this by November 1989, and we have this reconfirmed on daily basis.

Moreover, I myself am constantly rebuked for "so-called" criticism of the media, while I communicate with them more than any other politician. I am sincerely trying to bring to the media all I contemplate and everything the government does in the possibly broadest form.

Thanks to this policy, however, I know the individual media representatives well, and I see among them a group of those who are not interested in anything but catching somebody by his word and at any price show this or that politician in the worst possible form and the worst possible light. That is completely unnecessary, it does not lead anywhere, and I am not certain that it improves the prestige of that particular reporter.

Ministers Discuss Questions of German Claims

AU2607182293 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech
23 Jul 93 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "German Claims Toward the Czech Republic Surpass 300 Billion Marks; No One Has Figured Out Czech Claims"]

[Text] German claims toward the Czech Republic amount to more than 300 billion German marks. The amount of property confiscated from Germans in 1945 was calculated by the German side. Shortly after the war, it was 210 billion Czechoslovak korunas, and the German side indexed their claims over the years, reaching this sum. This is what ensued from the response provided by Finance Minister Kocarnik and Foreign Minister Zieleniec (both from Civic Democratic Party) to an interpellation raised by deputies J. Strait and V. Exner (Left Bloc) in parliament.

According to information provided to RUDE PRAVO by Foreign Ministry spokesman Lucie Pilipova, the German side has never raised those demands officially, which was also reflected in the concept for the treaty of goodneighborly relations and friendly cooperation between the two countries signed on 27 February 1992. This treaty does not deal with property claims. The indexing of the amount was done by Sudeten Germans. According to Pilipova, those are demands raised by Sudeten Germans and their organization, but not by official organs.

The Czech side—according to the ministers—has never figured out its claims toward the German side, for a simple reason: The conference in Paris unequivocally recognized the right of the Czech side to Sudeten German property, which had been confiscated on the basis of president of the Republic's Decree No. 108/1945 of 25 October 1945, a decree on the confiscation of property of enemies and on the [establishment of] National Reconstruction Fund. Gradually, the process of verifying and securing claims, and compilations of lists of claims and demands toward Germany was transferred to the Administration of Property and Foreign Currency Matters. This was the so-called Operation N. There is no list or calculated amount of claims and obligations of the Czech side, and the amount of the German claims was not verified.

Kocarnik classified the Czech claims into four categories. In the first one, there are reparation claims. Shortly after the war, they were figured out by the Czech side to amount to some 306 billion korunas. From the amount assigned to the Czechoslovak Republic for reparation by the Paris treaty, only 657 million korunas were paid as of 1948.

The second category, nonreparation claims and demands, that is, goods-related, financial, insurance-related and social-insurance related, current-accounts related, and other claims have never been calculated by the Czech side.

From the claims for persecution damages [persekucni skody] only some claims were settled on the basis of an agreement between the ministry of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and the German Federal Ministry of Finance on financial compensation to victims of pseudo-medical experiments, signed in Bonn in 1969. The Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters was entrusted to deal

with it. In this category should fall compensation for executed citizens, health damage, and imprisonment.

In the last category, there are property claims ensuing from forced labor during the war. In 1991 and 1992, it was considered that a fund should be established that would be financed by the German side and from which this persecution damages would be compensated. According to Kocarnik, however, it has ensued from the talks with Foreign Minister Kinkel in Prague in February 1993 that "Germany does not intend to establish nor finance such a fund." Despite this, neither side has ruled out its establishment. Later on, Prime Minister Klaus announced in parliament that the German side was inclined to adopt the alternative that it could finance specific projects in the Czech Republic—economic, ecologic, and humanitarian. For example, building a House of Social Services which would bear a sign saying that its construction was financed by Germany as a form of compensation for persecution of Czech citizens during the war.

According to Kocarnik's reply of the end of April, "the concept for talks with Germany fixed the rule that property claims should be rejected in principle. This concept is in harmony with the agreement on reparations that should be provided by Germany, and establishment of interally reparation office and the restitution of currency gold [menove zlato], signed in Paris on 21 December 1945 by the allies of the victorious anti-Hitler coalition."

According to the treaty, "each signing side will keep German property within its jurisdiction, in a selected form, or will dispose of it in such a manner as to prevent its return to German control."

Foreigners Should Have Minority Media Share

AU2607130493 Prague CTK in English 2148 GMT
22 Jul 93

[Text] Brno, South Moravia July 22 (CTK)—The Ministry For Economic Competition feels that foreign capital in the Czech mass media should have a minority share, that is less than 50 percent, Minister Stanislav Belehradek told CTK today.

The ministry came to this conclusion based on the experiences of several European Community (EC) countries such as France, Italy and Portugal. This proposal has already been added to the draft law on the media, the minister informed.

At a July 15 press conference Belehradek announced that the Czech Government should immediately push for the limiting of foreign capital ownership of the Czech media to lessen unnecessary reaction in the press on the part of citizens and politicians.

On June 29 the ministry abolished 11 mergers of some regional papers and periodicals of the Vltava, Labe and PNP press companies. The companies have been funded by the German company Hans Kapfinger GMBH based in Passau.

Defense Ministry Explains Screening of Ranks

AU2607155093 Prague CESKY DENIK in Czech
23 Jul 93 p 2

["vit"-signed report: "Some High-Ranking Officers Refuse To Subject Themselves to Screening"]

[Text] Prague—Some generals and colonels of the Czech Army refuse to be subjected to the ongoing screening. Such soldiers will automatically leave the Army. Jaroslav Cuhra, director of the Defense Ministry personnel department, told CESKY DENIK yesterday.

Similarly, all professional soldiers, in whose files evidence of their collaboration with the KGB is found, will leave the Army. The screening introduced by Defense Minister Baudys is to confirm the moral and professional aptitude of the professional soldiers for their vocation. "It is clearly stated in the order of the defense minister that all those who, in the past, took part in antidemocratic measures will leave the Army. The KGB collaborators certainly belong in this category," Jiri Skala, representative of the Defense press spokesman, told CESKY DENIK. "The decision of the three-member commission, which conducts the assessment, however, is not a decision on personnel measures," Skala emphasized.

The extraordinary screening of professional soldiers applies to 28,000 people at the ranks of general and colonel, and is to be completed on 10 December of this year.

SNS Sends Letter to HZDS on Coalition Talks

LD2607162293 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica
Slovensko Network in Slovak 1000 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Slovak National Party [SNS] sent a 10-point letter to the republican caucus of the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS], briefing them about the reasons leading the SNS to strive to conclude a coalition with the HZDS.

1. It is our acknowledgement that the world and important international structures would like to see a multi-coalition government in Slovakia.

2. It is our acknowledgement that the HZDS cannot deal by itself with the burden of problems Slovak society will face in the near future.

3. It is—says the letter—our fear that the failure suffered by the solitary HZDS would be at the same time the failure of Slovak statehood.

4. It is our acknowledgement that the activities of the government and the parliament stagnate because a pulsing creative dialogue about the trends of economy, social policy, ecology, etc. is missing from the internal life of these bodies—existing neither between the government and the opposition nor within the government.

5. It is our effort not to give a chance to those political forces that calculate with the possibility of early parliamentary elections and the return to the previous situation.

6. It is our own idea how to tackle the piled-up problems that cannot be assessed and solved from the point of view and potential of one movement only.

7. It is—continues the letter—our conviction that Slovakia's future should not be in the hands of one political force or one personality and that as wide a participation of political forces as possible is the best guarantee of our state's stability in this period.

8. It is our effort to change the current trend of the state bodies toward confrontation and their failure to communicate with citizens, trade unions, professional organizations, and political groups holding a different view.

9. It is our conviction that the current difficult situation of our population can be tackled more speedily and in a more accommodating way toward the citizens.

10. The last point—it is our sincere conviction that only the stability of our Constitution, laws, and political scene will create a positive image of Slovakia abroad that we need so much when presenting ourselves as a trustworthy partner.

We believe—concludes the letter sent by the SNS Political Board to the HZDS caucus held in Bardejov—that you will study our stance in detail, assess it, and decide in the way which will benefit Slovakia.

SNS Conditions Cited

AU2607154293 Bratislava REPUBLIKA in Slovak
23 Jul 93 pp 1, 2

[TA SR report: "Slovak National Party Candidates for Government Posts; Three Conditions for the Conclusion of an Agreement"]

[Excerpts] "The Slovak National Party [SNS] is presenting to the public premature and incomplete information, with which I cannot identify," Slovak Prime Minister and Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] Chairman Vladimir Meciar told the TA SR yesterday with regard to the unsuccessful coalition talks with the SNS on Wednesday [21 July]. He confirmed, furthermore, that the issue of filling the leading posts at the Supreme Control Office and in the Slovak National Bank had been settled by the leading bodies of the HZDS and the SNS by means of a special agreement to the satisfaction of both sides. Meciar is of the opinion, however, that both the HZDS and the SNS perceived this agreement as a partial step that neither guaranteed nor predetermined the conclusion of a general coalition agreement.

Vladimir Meciar rejected "gloomsters' voices" accusing the HZDS of having "misused" the SNS in filling these two key positions with the clear intention, prepared in advance, of subsequently reneging on the coalition. "For a coalition agreement to be concluded, three conditions must be met: harmony in the methods of carrying out the coalition's activity, programmatic affinity, and agreement on how to secure the implementation of the program in terms of personnel," Vladimir Meciar said. In view of the two sides' agreement to observe a moratorium and not to publish details on the coalition talks, the HZDS chairman refused to comment on yesterday's statement by Marian Andel, chairman of the SNS Club of Deputies, in which he expressed astonishment at reports, according to which the SNS's demands vis-a-vis the HZDS had been out of proportion. [passage omitted]

The TA SR correspondent managed to learn from circles close to the two parties that, in addition to the SNS's demands for the posts of deputy prime minister in charge of the economy (for Ludovit Cernak), minister of economy (Peter Balaz), minister of defense (Jozef Prokes or Vladimir Miskovsky), and minister of health (Jan Mihalik), all of which had already been mentioned in the press, there also existed a list of other posts and offices, on the filling of which with its own people the SNS insisted.

This list included the post of state secretary at the Slovak Ministry of Health, whereby this entire government department would find itself in the hands of the SNS. In view of the upcoming process of large-scale privatization in the sphere of health care facilities, some politicians suspect there is a "conflict of interests" behind the efforts to gain control over this department. In the opinion of a HZDS official who did not wish to be named, this is testified to also by another SNS demand,

the demand that the post of minister for the administration and privatization of national property be separated from the post of chairman of the National Property Fund [FNM] Presidium (under the current law, the two posts are held by the same person), on the understanding that the FNM chairman would be from the SNS ranks.

The SNS list supposedly also included demands for the posts of state secretaries in the departments of education and foreign affairs. The Ministry of Economy was to have two state secretaries—one from the HZDS and one from the SNS.

Tourism—A Gold Mine

The SNS supposedly proposes that the sphere of tourism, which, according to the aforementioned source, should become a "gold mine" in the years to come, be set apart from the Ministry of Economy and that it come under the jurisdiction of an independent government committee directly subordinate to the deputy prime minister in charge of the economy. According to the SNS demands, there should also be a change in the post of head of the Slovak Government Office.

The SNS supposedly wants to "reconstruct in terms of personnel" state administration bodies throughout Slovakia, key mass media (Slovak Television, the TA SR, and Slovak Radio), but also embassies and other representative offices of the Slovak Republic abroad, and to divide appointments between the two coalition partners at a one to one ratio.

What is most unacceptable to the HZDS, however, are the SNS demands regarding the Slovak parliament, the unnamed HZDS official said. Although HZDS representatives should keep the post of chairman and the post of one deputy chairman, the two other positions of deputy chairmen should be divided anew.

Andel In Lieu of Weiss?

Marian Andel, chairman of the SNS Club of Deputies, is supposedly a hot candidate for the post of first deputy chairman of the National Council of the Slovak Republic [NRSR], which is now held by Peter Weiss (Party of the Democratic Left). Apart from disagreements on personnel issues, the draft NRSR law on internal procedures in the legislative body also still remains a neuralgic point of the coalition talks. [passage omitted]

Democratic Party on Talks

LD2607163993 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica
Slovensko Network in Slovak 1300 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] At a news conference held by the Democratic Party [DS], its Chairman Anton Duris described the failed coalition talks between the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia [HZDS] and the Slovak National Party [SNS], as presenting further complications to the Slovak republic. He said that the possibility for the political scene to become more stable is disappearing and the tackling of economic problems is being pushed into the

background. The head of the democrats added in this connection that he would not be surprised to see the HZDS Parliamentary Club stop tolerating the HZDS chairman's scenarios.

As for the SNS, which moved from opposition to coalition last month, Anton Duris said that radical changes in policy never paid off. He remarked that, according to Social Democrats, the SNS policy was of a communist and speculative nature.

Kovac on Present Conditions, Future Prospects

AU2607155293 Bratislava HOSPODARSKE NOVINY
in Slovak 23 Jul 93 pp 1, 2

[Interview with President Michal Kovac by HOSPODARSKE NOVINY chief editor Peter Kasalovsky; place and date not given: "Toward a Stable and Prosperous State"]

[Text] [Kasalovsky] Mr. President, how do you perceive the situation on the domestic political scene?

[Kovac] The founding of an independent and sovereign republic marked Slovakia's entry into a new stage of its history. It is natural that, even though this step fulfilled the longing of our citizens for national identity, it is also accompanied by some objective difficulties. These are caused, first and foremost, by the historical development and by the conditions in which Slovakia found itself at the beginning of this year. In spite of some minor difficulties, the internal political situation is distinguished by characteristic dynamism and is in many ways similar to the development in other countries that had embarked upon the path of freedom and democracy after the fall of the totalitarian regimes. The fact must not be ignored that both the parliamentary and the communal elections in the Slovak Republic took place under the conditions of the federation. Slovakia's independence also forces the political parties to reassess their original programs and adapt them to the new conditions. This process is currently under way. Individual parties are dropping from their programmatic theses national attributes and concentrate more on the solution to economic and social problems. On this basis they are gradually becoming more legible in terms of their orientation toward the right or the left of the political spectrum and, based on this orientation, are looking for their natural allies. To the outsider, this process of gaining a clear profile may create the impression of instability. It is, however, a process of the crystallization of opinions that, in the final analysis, has a stabilizing impact.

[Kasalovsky] Following certain "misunderstandings," the Slovak Republic has been admitted to the Council of Europe as a regular member. This is an opportunity for you to express your view on the Slovak Republic's standing and role in international relations.

[Kovac] The foreign policy of the Slovak Republic is being formulated unequivocally on the basis of multilateral cooperation. This is a prerequisite of friendly relations not only with immediate neighbors but with all countries interested in promoting economic, social, as well as political contacts with Slovakia. It is our innermost interest to become integrated into the European political, economic, and security structures and to become a stable link of integrating Europe. We regard our admission into the Council of Europe as an important signal that Slovakia has really embarked upon the path of democracy and freedom and that the democratic world accepts our steps.

[Kasalovsky] Your meeting with the president of the Czech Republic took place at a time when our relations cannot be described as getting better. What needs to be done for an atmosphere of fruitful and comprehensive cooperation to prevail in Slovak-Czech relations?

[Kovac] We do not feel that our relations with the Czech Republic are deteriorating. We are linked by economic relations and cultural and historical traditions that cannot be severed by some political misunderstandings. Both states share the same interest in becoming integrated among the countries of the European Community and NATO. At present it is important that we succeed in quickly settling the issue of federal property division and come to an agreement on a common regime at our borders and thereby overcome past heritage that might otherwise needlessly burden our cooperation. These are not problems that cannot be resolved at the conference table. For this reason I consider also the temporary decline in our mutual trade turnover to be a passing phenomenon.

[Kasalovsky] You used to work in the banking sector, which is a key area. What would you say about it, both as a foremost expert and as head of state, now that you observe it with some detachment?

[Kovac] The financial policy of a state is a certain reflection of the country's stability. We are interested in creating a well-functioning banking system, in which domestic private capital, as well as foreign capital, would participate. Changes in the banking system take place slowly, which represents a serious obstacle to economic recovery. On the other hand, however, it needs to be seen that, after the CSFR's demise, we have succeeded in maintaining a stable currency and have kept inflation under control and within tolerable limits. Unfortunately, owing to the slower pace of transformation of the economic sphere, obstacles to economic recovery, and other causes, we have devalued the Slovak koruna 10 percent. The aim of this step is to increase the ability of our products to compete on foreign markets and to increase interest in Slovak products on the domestic market. In the final analysis, we have to realize that in the course of last year almost all West European states had devalued their currencies, sometimes by more than 10 percent.

[Kasalovsky] What is your view of the Slovak Republic's development in the next one to two years?

[Kovac] We want to carry on the process of transforming our economy that has been started. We see the private sector as a guarantee of Slovakia's future prosperity. Investments into the tertiary sphere, into the development of services and tourism, seem to be very promising as they yield a fast return. We are establishing all legislative prerequisites for Slovakia to become attractive for foreign capital investments. Along with that we are establishing conditions for a firm domestic political system guaranteeing a stable development of the state. In spite of the pan-European integration process, we also view as promising regional cooperation, in which our relations within the framework of the Visegrad group and other associations play the dominant role. We want to successfully come to terms with the attribute a young promising republic and earn the reputation of a stable and prosperous state.

Officials Deny Militarization of Southern Border

AU2607145093 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 24 Jul 93 p 1

[Correspondent's report: "We Do Not Militarize the Southern Border"]

[Text] Although the Hungarian Border Police is present, with armored vehicles and armor-piercing weapons, along the 69-km border with the "republic of Serbian Krajina," all this is the necessary minimal force and Hungary does not want to militarize this zone at all—the spokesman of the Border Police told our correspondent.

This is the zone where fresh notices warn the people that the border area is dangerous because of land mines. The Serbian army, deployed on the other side of the border, has armored personnel carriers and tanks. One can see the T-55 tanks from the village of Old. Therefore, the forces deployed here, from the 19 action units deployed along the border, have a special role. As we have already learned, the action units are equipped with more modern antitank weapons than before.

Border Police Spokesman Attila Krisan pointed out that, in spite of all this, they did not militarize the border zone and did not want to create panic; they only deployed the minimum necessary forces here to be able to take an efficient stand against forces that could unexpectedly drift into Hungarian territory. The Border Police is not led by political considerations; they only fulfill their constitutional tasks. The anti-tank obstacles that can be seen on the other side of the border are obviously fearful, but Attila Krisan did not engage in speculations about the aim of these obstacles. Independent military experts partly explain the deployment of these obstacles by the fear of the Serbian troops that they could be attacked by Croats from Hungarian territory.

Ministry Reacts to Possible Blocking of Danube

LD2707093493 Budapest MTV Television Network in Hungarian 0445 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] From tomorrow the Danube blockade near Belgrade will become complete. This has been announced by the organizers of the movement, Blockade Against the Blockade. How will all this affect our country? A Foreign Ministry spokesman gave us an exclusive interview about this.

[Begin recording of Foreign Ministry spokesman Janos Herman] According to the announcement, on 28 July the essential part of the action will begin. Certain groups in Yugoslavia indicate the prospect of holding up ships traveling along the Danube, and only letting them proceed if they agree to take a Yugoslav ship with them.

The Danube is an international waterway of major importance. Its use is regulated by international treaties, and any form of blockade is contrary to international laws. To assure the continuity of shipping along ¹¹

Danube is of vital interest to many Hungarian companies, and the Foreign Ministry is treating this matter with appropriate seriousness.

On 19 July we raised this question at the Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council. The chairman of the Sanctions Committee called in the ambassador to the rump Yugoslavia and told him that the Security Council regards this declaration as a serious development, and they expect the Yugoslav authorities to ensure the continuity of shipping. The Yugoslav ambassador promised this. We are continuing to hope that the mentioned Yugoslav groups will not carry out their threat. [end recording]

Goncz Comments on Issue of Benes Decrees

AU2707083693 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 27 Jul 93 p 3

[Article by Alexandra Schmid: "Expulsion Does Not Belong to the Past"]

[Text] Salzburg/Munich—In talks with his Czech counterpart, Vaclav Klaus, Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall recently doubted the validity of the Benes decrees. After the war, these laws constituted legal justification for the expulsion of 35,000 Hungarians and 3.6 million Sudeten Germans and South Moravians. In an interview with DER STANDARD on the fringes of the Salzburg Festival, Hungarian President Arpad Goncz said that the decrees "are still very important for the Hungarians today," because they showed the "dimension of the land and assets that were confiscated."

"No Revenge for What Happened a Very Long Time Ago"

That is why we cannot say that "it belongs to the past and is over," stressed the Hungarian chief of state. Goncz said, however, that it would not be helpful to "take revenge for injustices done a very long time ago."

The Sudeten German organization represents the expelled's claims and does "not seek revenge but justice," says the organization's German federal manager Horst Loeffler. In this respect, Loeffler welcomes Hungary's move to point out "the injustice done, which is tantamount to a collective punishment." He says that this is a move at the political level for which we have long waited.

Loeffler lacks a statement in this direction from leading German and even more so by leading Austrian politicians, because, "basically, we are all old Austrians." His demand is that "Austria should send a signal now more than ever."

The Sudeten German organization wrote to Austrian President Thomas Klestil in April and asked him to support the organizing of a "roundtable." "We are still waiting for an answer," said Loeffler. At such a roundtable, Sudeten Germans and Czechs should discuss the effects of the expulsion.

For the Return of State Assets

"We are aware that we cannot expect major reparations. The assets that were sold are lost anyway. But we would like to see at least those assets that are still owned by the state returned to their former owners," said Loeffler. Every individual concerned would have to decide for himself whether or not he would accept such an offer.

Official Corrects Information on Army Reduction

AU2607155493 Budapest PESTI HIRLAP in
Hungarian 24 Jul 93 p 3

[Zoltan Fekete report: "Ambiguous Data on Army's Budget—Soldiers Have Been, Are, and Will Be Needed"]

[Text] The Hungarian Army needs all its soldiers, Lt. Colonel Laszlo Titkos, head of the Defense Ministry's Press Office, told MAGYAR HIRLAP.

In Friday's [23 July] edition of NEPSZABADSAG, a correspondent who did not want to name or identify himself published ambiguous data on the planned reduction of the Hungarian Army's personnel in 1994 under the heading "The Army Continues To Dwindle." (The socialist daily gives the following data on the planned reduction: 681 officers, 1,820 full-time public employees, 1,030 contractors, 179 part-timers, and 1,200 reserves.) Laszlo Titkos said that the Army needs the work of all its officers, warrant officers, and contracted soldiers, and no significant changes are planned in the size of the conscripted personnel, even though the real value of the budget is decreasing. The data published in NEPSZABADSAG in this form can be misinterpreted, Titkos said, because all that will happen is that, due to changing over to four-year training from three years next year, no officers will be inaugurated at the military high schools, while due to retirements and people voluntarily leaving the service, the number of the officers can indeed be expected to decrease.

According to Titkos, the Army expects an increase in the number of warrant officers which will result in the increase of the proportion of regular soldiers within the

whole personnel. In the case of contracted soldiers, a smaller number is planned due to the fact that they did not manage to fill up the increased limit. According to the plans, in the case of public employees, the currently empty positions and the positions that will cease to exist due to natural reductions and other reasons will not be filled and this appears as a reduction in the budget, Titkos emphasized. Naturally, the training of the reserves is also continuing but they will reduce the many thousands of people who are annually drafted for a few weeks to the level absolutely necessary for deployment [hadrafoghatóság], which means a smaller number of reserves in the budget.

Answering our question on who had supplied the so-far secret data to NEPSZABADSAG, Titkos firmly stated that it was not in the interest of either the Defense Ministry or the Army's leadership to publish these data without explanations. According to information received by the Press Office, the socialist daily had been informed by a parliamentary deputy. This is possible because the deputies, who are currently on leave, had indeed received the material. Titkos also stated that as far as he knew, these data were not secret.

Police Unit Returns From UN Duty in Cambodia

LD2607135193 Budapest MTI in English 1145 GMT
26 Jul 93

[Text] Budapest, July 26 (MTI)—After more than a year's duty with the United Nations, a 129-strong Hungarian police unit today returned from Cambodia. Their task had been to oversee the elections, maintain law and order and resettle refugees.

Brigadier General Andras Turos praised the policemen after they arrived at Ferihegy airport for their work with colleagues from 30 countries under dangerous circumstances, where one Hungarian was injured in an armed attack. The Hungarian police donated USD 700,000 to build an orphanage in Cambodia.

They returned a few months later than planned as they had to wait for Cambodia's leadership to settle the tense situation after the elections.

Solidarity Views Restructuring of Arms Industry

AU2707091593 Warsaw PAP in English 1148 GMT
26 Jul 93

[Text] Warsaw, July 26—The leadership of the Solidarity's national section of arms industry came to the Ministry of Industry and Trade today to study a blueprint for the financial restructuring of arms factories, prepared by a team of government experts.

After studying the assumptions for the financial restructuring of arms factories, chairman of the Solidarity's national section of arms industry Stanislaw Glowacki said they included elements for which the section fought. He said the section would present its assessment on Tuesday [27 July] and thought there would be no need to stage a strike.

Government experts offered the unionists the division of enterprises into three groups: the first are efficiently working plants, the second are firms standing chances for financial stability in six or twelve months and the third group are factories requiring special solutions.

The industry ministry thinks that it is also possible to swiftly solve the problem of making up for the losses arms factories suffered as a result of imposing embargo on trade in weapons with Iraq.

Russian Ships Move Against Trawlers

LD2607172593 Warsaw PAP in English 1515 GMT
26 Jul 93

[Text] Szczecin, Moscow, July 26—The Polish Trawler "Amarel," belonging to the "Gryf" deep-sea fishing enterprise from Szczecin, has been accused by a Russian coastal patrol vessel of violating the Russian economic zone in the Sea of Okhotsk, and of refusing to comply with an order to pull into the roadstead at the Okhotsk sea-port of Magadan, the "Gryf" management announced in Szczecin on Monday.

According to a spokesman for "Gryf," the skipper of the Polish vessel refused to comply because the "Amarel" was over 12 nautical miles from the Russian coast, and therefore outside Russian territorial waters.

Earlier, another Polish vessel "Homar" belonging to the "Odra" enterprise, pulled into the Magadan roadstead in response to a Russian request.

It was reported from Moscow on Monday that "Homar" was detained in the Sea of Okhotsk, having, according to the Russian side, strayed outside neutral waters into the Russian zone.

According to the reports of the Polish Foreign Affairs Ministry (MSZ), the trawler trespassed the Russian territorial waters by one mile following a faulty indication of a navigation computer.

After a Russian court had found the trawler not guilty of the charges, "Homar" was released and returned to the Okhotsk Sea.

According to the Russian press agency TASS, around 20 Polish and Chinese vessels are currently trawling in the Sea of Okhotsk. Although Russian control vessels and aircraft are monitoring their movements, effective control is hindered by a lack of fuel for inspection flights.

Suchocka on Talks With Lithuanian Leader

LD2607171193 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1400 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] A meeting between Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka and Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius has ended in Warsaw. The subject of the talks included a Polish-Lithuanian treaty, economic problems, and issues connected with border crossings between the two countries.

[begin Suchocka recording] First and foremost we spoke about the Polish-Lithuanian treaty, which at present is at the stage of negotiations between representatives of our foreign ministries. I would like to emphasize that we have agreed with the prime minister that historical issues—issues which are our heaviest burden—should not present an obstacle for the development of our mutual relations, and we have agreed that these issues should be the subject of a separate declaration, rather than being included in the Polish-Lithuanian treaty.

I have also been invited by the prime minister to the opening of a border crossing in Budziska on 1 September this year, and we decided that it would be best if by then the Polish-Lithuanian treaty were concluded, and then it would be good to participate at the opening of the crossing in Budziska.

We also talked about liberalizing our trade. We agreed that it would be useful to appoint experts representing the Polish Foreign Economic Cooperation Ministry and the Lithuanian Finance Ministry who would deal with certain stages, the schedules, and the degrees of reaching liberalization in trade between Lithuania and Poland. [end recording]

[Announcer] Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka reported that further negotiations about the treaty will take place in Vilnius on 16 and 17 August.

Liberals Pledge To Cut Taxes, Create Jobs

AU2707091793 Warsaw PAP in English 1804 GMT
26 Jul 93

[Text] Warsaw, July 26—The state should reduce taxes by 25 percent and grant businessmen investment reliefs, which will allow tax-payers to keep 10 trillion zlotys (\$71 million U.S. dollars) and create over 300,000 new jobs, leader of the Liberal Democratic Congress (KLD) Jan Krzysztof Bielecki told a news conference while presenting the party's economic programme.

According to the programme prepared for the next four years, money should stay with tax-payers as only then it will be used in the best way, also for creating new jobs. The KLD programme envisages about one million new jobs in the near future.

The campaign calling to buy only Polish products, promotion of exports and development of transport and communications should give work to further 700,000 unemployed, Bielecki said.

If the KLD programme is carried out after the elections the budget deficit will decrease to the level of 4.6 percent of the GDP (gross domestic product), inflation will go down by 10 percent and the rate of unemployment will reach 9 percent.

The KLD programme provides for ways of financing the budget deficit offering to issue state bonds to be sold for U.S. dollars and later exchanged for shares in the best enterprises. This system will allow the National Bank of Poland not to be involved in financing the state deficit. According to the KLD the central bank should stay independent and not be a subject of political games in parliament.

Pro-Reform 'Windsor Group' Holds First Meeting

*AU2707091993 Warsaw PAP in English 1704 GMT
26 Jul 93*

[Text] Warsaw, July 26—Six members of the informal Polish Windsor Group, prominent politicians of various centre-right parties, met in Warsaw at an inaugural meeting and vowed to work together for the consolidation of capitalist reforms in Poland.

Andrzej Arendarski, Witold Gadowski, Aleksander Hall, Marek Nowakowski, Krzysztof Pawlowski and Kazimierz M. Ujazdowski announced after the meeting that the Polish reforms were in danger of being reversed after the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

What we need is a clearer vision of the shape of capitalism Poland is headed for, the six politicians said in their statement. They declared they would strive to build a political agreement between forces which are prepared to continue free market economic course and the consolidation of democracy.

The Polish Windsor Group is one of the three which emerged after the conference of Eastern European politicians held in Windsor, England, last June. It is supported by the U.S. Heritage Foundation and other Western institutions.

Union of Labor Leader Presents Election Program

*LD2607135593 Warsaw PAP in English 1159 GMT
26 Jul 93*

[Text] Warsaw, July 26—The most important task facing the leftist Union of Labour (UP) is to build up an economic programme, UP leader Ryszard Bugaj said on Monday [26 July].

At a press conference to present the election programme of this small post-Solidarity party, Bugaj said that the UP insisted on "equal treatment for all economic sectors, changes in the tax system and improvements in tax collection." He added that the party "demanded an active policy for restructuring of the economy, abandonment of desperate privatisation, an easing in the restrictive monetary policy, and support for the strengthening of the Polish domestic market."

Bugaj linked the present instability in the Polish economy with threats facing Polish democracy. He also noted "with growing unease" the increasing interventions in politics by President Lech Walesa, "and his clear abandonment of his role as a referee creating conditions for agreement between political parties." In his opinion, the president has become a partisan player in Polish politics.

Bugaj also called for respect of the lay nature of the Polish state. "We will repeat this clearly, although quietly, in any dialogue with those persons representing interests close to the Catholic Church," he said.

Bugaj said that the UP programme for the election could be summarised in two slogans: "These elections are a referendum," and "Poland does not belong only to the rich and healthy." He repeated the UP conviction that the Senate (upper house of parliament) was an unnecessary element in the Polish political system.

Commenting on the financing of the UP election campaign, Bugaj said that each candidate would be obliged to contribute 3 million zlotys (167 dollars), while other finance would be raised during the course of the campaign. He pledged that up would issue a monthly statement of its financial affairs, giving the names of major contributors. "We expect other parties to follow suit," he noted.

The Union of Labour, a left of centre party from the post-Solidarity camp, is currently showing around 5 percent support in opinion polls, the minimum support necessary to secure representation in the next parliament.

Iliescu, Moldovan President Hold News Conference

AU2707102993 Bucharest DIMINEATA Supplement No 81 in Romanian 22 Jul 93 pp 2, 3

[News conference by Romanian President Ion Iliescu and President of the Republic of Moldova Mircea Snegur with foreign and domestic correspondents in Bucharest on 17 July]

[Text] [Iliescu] To begin with, a good day to all journalists present at this meeting.

We are able to provide some information about the visit and the meetings that took place today.

As you may have noted, the delegations held plenary meetings, while the prime ministers and a number of ministers held separate meetings on economic issues and, especially the interior ministers on problems pertaining to border issues, cooperation to facilitate customs regulations, and on problems pertaining to cooperation between border guards and so forth. The foreign ministers discussed certain issues linked especially to the drafting of the treaty. Mr. Snegur had the opportunity to visit parliament.

Briefly put, I would like to emphasize primarily the political importance of this visit paid by Moldova's president, Mr. Snegur, and the talks that took place today; in my view, they mark our mutual political will to give a practical and concrete impetus to the development of bilateral relations and to solving certain tangible problems.

What we noted primarily was a positive thing that happened this year: The interministerial joint commission was set up in March in Bucharest and at the end of June this joint commission held its second meeting and noted concrete progress of action and cooperation between the two governments; it also established groups according to areas of activity such as infrastructure, energy, transportation, telecommunications, cooperation in the area of industrial production, facilitating and giving impetus to direct relations between economic units, and expanding joint ventures—at this point there are more than 250 such joint ventures registered in Bucharest and some 74 in Chisinau—during this meeting, the sides decided to give impetus to the further development of direct relations between economic units.

Today we ticked off the essential issues included in the protocol of our last meeting in Chisinau and established additional meetings for the economic-financial area in order to organize a joint bank and a joint chamber of commerce to facilitate these relations.

We also noted great progress and discussed measures to be taken to further relations at the government and ministerial level, as well as direct relations between educational establishments, research and cultural institutes—a house of culture in Chisinau—direct relations between cultural institutions, as well as at the level of

territorial-administrative units, of localities, libraries, educational and cultural establishments at the local level. The same holds true for health care, youth affairs, and tourism. Thus, it was an opportunity for the two prime ministers to review what was concretely established in these cooperation programs by the ministerial commissions, and some additional measures to promote joint actions. Among other things, the two sides discussed the promotion of projects in the area of transportation and energy, as well as joint projects to be financed by international finance and banking institutions.

We also discussed a few concrete questions bearing in mind the improved situation at border checkpoints. There are a number of difficulties of a bureaucratic nature but also because of the increase in the volume of exchanges. Last year three million citizens crossed the border from one side or the other. From this point of view and bearing in mind the understanding signed between the two ministries, we also broached cooperative action to facilitate activity at border points and to modernize them in the future; we also discussed better cooperation between the border guards and customs offices to facilitate border traffic.

The Republic of Moldova expressed interest in building a port on the Danube and the relevant ministries are to examine on the spot what the possibilities are for building a port at Giurgulesti with Romanian assistance and in cooperation with the port at Falati, or in any other form that is viewed as being effective.

Aside from its general political message and the expression of the political will to expand the framework of our relations, this meeting was an opportunity to examine—at the level of prime ministers, the ministers of trade, and international economic relations—certain concrete problems linked to what the two interministerial commissions had established.

During the meeting in parliament, President Snegur had the opportunity to note the progress made along the line of contacts between the two parliaments. The Republic of Moldova has reached the final stage of formulating the draft constitution. The members of the Constitutional Court granted technical assistance by bearing in mind the experience gained by Romania in drafting its own Constitution. The meeting also stressed the need to expand cooperation between the two parliaments. The Ministries of Justice also established contacts and discussed issues linked to judicial assistance and bilateral cooperation.

A special point was our common concern with finalizing the treaty between the two states. We have agreed that the two relevant ministries resume their joint activity in connection with the draft treaty and that its final version be presented in September-October. This draft treaty will then form the subject of discussion between the leadership of the two governments so as to promote the signing of this treaty between our countries.

I would like to stress the political significance of this event and of this summit contact, as well as the common desire and will to give an impetus to the development of fraternal relations at all levels between the two Romanian states that constitute a historic reality of our time.

[Snegur] Mr. President, honored audience, I would like to add the following to what President Ion Iliescu has said: First I would like to mention the friendly atmosphere in which both the negotiations between the delegations and the talks between the two presidents and the ministers of the two countries have taken place. This friendly atmosphere once again proves that one cannot say that relations between Moldova and Romania have cooled off as the mass media often hold. I would like you to describe what I have just stated in the respective mass media.

Second, President Iliescu told us—something that was very interesting for us—about the actions taken and the role played by Romania in stabilizing the situation in the area bearing in mind that Romania is surrounded by certain sources of conflict. We appreciate this kind of information.

Third, much has been said at our meetings about the reform and other processes that are taking place in our countries, and about the privatization process in Moldova and the preparations made for the introduction of the leu—the national currency—as well as about the role both countries have played in these processes and the role played by international bodies such as the IMF and the World Bank, which, in fact, correctly assess all the measures taken to promote reform and are ready to give them not only moral, but also material support. Until then, however, regretfully we have to face the same difficulties or rather the poorly protected segments of the population have to face tremendous difficulties and we have arrived at the conclusion that it is our duty to do all we can so that the promotion of the reform process will not affect those segments in such a negative way.

Then we discussed aspects of economic relations and integration between Moldova and Romania that were broached by President Iliescu. I would not like to repeat things.

I met with the presidents of Romania's Chamber of Deputies and Senate. We had a very fruitful talk, which again emphasized the importance of interparliamentary relations, something that would facilitate and give an impetus to the creation of the judicial framework for primarily promoting reform and, secondly, for strengthening relations between Moldova and Romania.

Certainly, during the meetings with Mr. Iliescu and the meeting at parliament we also discussed other international issues; the main thing, however, is the political significance of today's meeting and the decision to intensify relations between the two countries and give an impetus to both cultural and economic integration. I think that soon you will have the opportunity to inform your readers or listeners of tangible actions. Maybe this

is also why today's meeting is different from previous ones; we talked, in concrete terms, about energy, border crossing issues, and about the construction of railroads, and so forth. This being said, I want to conclude my little speech; I think that it is possible to answer some questions if we have time.

[Horia Pop, ROMPRES] A question for President Snegur: The cooperation treaty between the Republic of Moldova and Russia was signed a long time ago, but, as far as I know, it has not yet been ratified by the Supreme Soviet. How do you explain this delay. Do you think that one can talk about the nonrecognition of the treaty provisions by the legislative forum in Moscow?

And since I have asked a question about this treaty, this morning at the airport you said that the time has come to take tangible steps toward signing the treaty between Romania and Moldova. In your opinion, what is the cause for this delay in signing this treaty?

[Snegur] In connection with the treaty with Russia, I do not think that we can talk of total neglect on the part of the entire Russian Parliament and the Parliament of Moldova. What is rather at stake are certain ambitions by Boris Yeltsin's opposition such as General Babushin, Isakov, and other deputies, namely those people who strongly support the so-called pro-Russian population in countries that are independent today, that is, former republics of the former USSR. In our country these differences about the law on the use of the mother tongue appeared from the very beginning, when the Romanian language became the official language of the republic and enterprise leaders had to learn it within a certain time limit—300-500 words by 1 January 1994 in order to be able to talk with the local population....

This was the main reason. The Russian Parliament is talking about completely different things; there is talk about human rights violations and so forth. In our country, in Moldova, the situation is completely different with regard to ethnic minorities. If we examine the law on citizenship, the law on the protection of ethnic minorities' rights, we will realize this. Thus, we are talking of a sort of ambition among these deputies. We hope that the deputies in charge of ties with the Russian Parliament, who have just had a meeting with their counterparts in the Russian Parliament, will perhaps come back with certain things.

In connection with the treaty with Romania, I do not think that we can talk about negligence on the part of Romania or the Republic of Moldova. Experts of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs have worked on that treaty; now that we have begun concrete work and have concluded tangible accords, certain things are also required that are established in the treaty between the Republic of Moldova and Romania. This is why, together with President Iliescu, we want to give impetus to this activity; we have arrived at the conclusion that the work will be done in August and by approximately mid September the foreign ministers will meet to examine

what has been achieved. These are the reasons and thus there are no other negative elements involved.

[Rodica Avram, CURIERUL NATIONAL] A question also for President Snegur: Mr. President, this morning on arrival at Otopeni Airport you stated that each meeting between Bucharest-Chisinau at summit level signals the beginning of new processes on the road to integration between our countries. Now, at the end of your short visit to Bucharest, I would like you to specify what immediate signals the talks you conducted with President Ion Iliescu will yield? I am asking you this question bearing in mind the commentaries about a so-called stalemate in bilateral relations.

[Snegur] From the very beginning of my speech I wanted to draw attention to the fact that we cannot speak of stagnation.

Thus I have to tell a little story. After our previous meeting the creation of joint associations and enterprises was stimulated. President Iliescu said that in Bucharest there are some 250 while in Chisinau there are 75. I think that even now these joint ventures are facing various difficulties, given the fact that the banking problem has not yet been solved. An immediate impetus would be the creation of a joint Romanian-Moldovan bank, of a joint chamber of commerce, a sufficient increase in our commodity exchange, Moldova's participation in the construction of the Cernavoda energy complex, and so forth; our prime ministers have discussed numerous tangible questions.

[REUTER correspondent] Mr. President Snegur, Moldova's economy is facing a 1,500-percent inflation rate and a budget deficit of almost 150 billion rubles, it seems. Do you intend to ask Romania for help in launching the initiatives for economic restoration that you presented on Wednesday, 21 July. In concrete terms, if possible, what specifically....

[Snegur] As the prime ministers said, these problems have not been discussed. Issues linked to credits were not discussed; they discussed the problem of participation in some joint projects in such areas as the energy, transportation, and commodity exchange between the two countries, and so forth.

[Calin Petrescu, Radio Romania Current Events] Mr. President Snegur, I would like to ask you whether the Republic of Moldova intends to stay in the ruble zone and when you think the national currency, the Moldovan leu, will be introduced?

[Snegur] This is a secret deadline that cannot be disclosed at a news conference. Nevertheless, for your sake... I want to tell you that we plan to introduce the national currency, the Moldovan leu, by the end of 1993 and, obviously, leave the ruble zone; this, however, does not mean our dissociation from the links we have in the export-import activity.

[Constantin Lupu, ADEVARUL] Mr. Mircea Snegur, a question also for you. Should we understand that on the 26th of this month when you go to Yerevan, you will go with a view to signing the treaty on the economic and monetary union?

On 27 August 1991, in the Parliament Hall, immediately after the proclamation of Moldova's independence, I asked you what you expected from Bucharest. Permit me to ask you once again: What do you expect from Bucharest now?

[Snegur] First, I am not aware that a meeting of the CIS member states has been convened in Yerevan on 27 July; there is talk that there will be a meeting at the end of August, but I do not know where, in Yerevan or somewhere else.

Second, in connection with everything to do with the economic aspect within the CIS, I want to mention that so far Moldova has also signed economic accords. We were told, and I thought at the beginning, that it is advisable to solve all problems within the framework of bilateral relations. But when we begin to solve them, it is not possible. Why? Because oil has to be transported to Belarus, where it is processed, and then brought to Moldova via Ukraine, and so forth. Thus a number of problems emerged. I think that as long as it has no other source of energy, there is nothing Moldova can do. Our slogan, however, is the following: The way we promote integration with the West, with the Arab or other countries, in the same way we leave a given community if it does not suit us any more and enter another one.

In connection with the second question, I told you that what I expected from Bucharest is that Romania should be the first country to recognize us. Something like this.... And this is what happened. What I expect today from Romania, our sister country, is to continue to support us primarily in the world arena, in international organizations and their decisions vis-a-vis the problems we are confronted with, such as Transdniestria, the Southern rayons with their prevailing Gagauz population, and so forth. This also includes the Ilascu trial. I do not want to repeat what we expect at the economic level. At the economic level, we have to promote mutually advantageous relations due to the fact that we have gained some experience in this area.

[Rodica Chelaru, "Meridian," BBC] One question for President Snegur and a second one for President Iliescu: Whether during today's talks you and the delegation accompanying you discussed the four-way mechanism and, if so, in what terms?

For President Iliescu: What will be the name of the treaty that Romania signs with the Republic of Moldova? Will the title "Treaty of Integration and Fraternity," which was announced initially—even though unofficially—be preserved or will there be another title?

[Snegur] The four-way mechanism was emphasized today during the negotiations between the two delegations. It was regretfully noted that this mechanism is less effective of late or rather the activity of this mechanism has come to a standstill and I have to tell you that this standstill is neither Moldova's fault, nor Romania's, or Ukraine's for that matter. Russia holds a different position regarding this mechanism and thus the idea was launched that, in the final analysis, even if it is not going to be named four-way mechanism, it would be advisable to have a tripartite mechanism to have consultations and take tangible actions.

[Chelaru] What does this "tripartite mechanism" mean?

[Snegur] Without Russia.

[Iliescu] We did not dwell on the title today, but on the substance. From our joint discussion it is obvious that the treaty between the two states has to have a different connotation, a different content, and a different spirit than the regular bilateral treaties Romania is concluding with other neighbors and with Moldova; thus, it will have a completely different structure than the normal treaties with our neighbors. And this is the substance of our concern and of the recommendation we have made to the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs, namely to work carefully in order to lend it this special nature that the relations between our states and the document that will establish the judicial framework for the development of these relations should have. (...)

Goals of Iliescu's Latin American Tour Outlined

AU2607135493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1021 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 26/7/1993—Romania's President Ion Iliescu is leaving today on a Latin American political and diplomatic tour with visits to Argentina (27-29 July), Uruguay (29 July-1 August), Chile (1-3 August), and Colombia (3-5 August).

The visits have first of all a political dimension, their schedule including meetings with heads of state and members of governments, and with presidents of parliaments and other political figures, stated the presidential spokesman, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu. Moreover, also decided was the signing of general cooperation agreements with the mentioned states, the visits being an opportunity to promote Romanian products on South-American markets. The spokesman also mentioned that president Iliescu would be accompanied by Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu, by Minister of Culture Mihai Golu, and by other Romanian officials and businessmen. The visits will occasion openings of Romanian exhibitions and meetings with the Romanian diaspora.

Hailing the tour, the ambassadors in Bucharest of the four countries highlighted in press statements that these visits would be an opportunity for tightening relations on various planes between the mentioned states and Romania. Generally, their statements show that

Romania is currently confronted with issues similar to those faced by their countries in the process of transition from dictatorship to democracy and a market economy.

In a statement made for the ROMPRES news agency, Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo considered the visit as an occasion "to strengthen political, diplomatic, commercial, and cultural bilateral ties, setting also a framework for a reassertion of the democratic vocation of the Colombian and the Romanian peoples."

The current tour is the third made by President Ion Iliescu in Latin America. He also paid visits to Costa Rica and Venezuela in 1991, in Brazil in 1992, and in Mexico at the beginning of 1993.

Social-Democratic National Alliance Formed

AU2607182093 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1700 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] In the presence of the press, the representatives of eight parties belonging to the center-left political arena signed the founding document of the Social-Democratic National Alliance in Bucharest today.

The signatory political formations are as follows:

Constantin Titel Petrescu Social-Democratic Party, Independent Democratic Party, Romanian Labor Party, New Democracy Party, National Democratic Party, Christian Republican Party, Traditional Social-Democratic Party, and Social-Democratic Unity Party.

According to the convention concluded, the signatory political formations preserve their legal entity without ruling out the possible adherence of other parties, organizations, and trade unions to this alliance.

The proclamation addressed to Romania's citizens and the speeches made both by Mr. Mircea [word indistinct] Stanescu, president of the Social-Democratic National Alliance and by the representatives of the signatory parties specified the political position of delimiting and rejecting the forces that support our country's subjugation to multinational capital and emphasized the national, republican, and social-democratic options of the Social-Democratic National Alliance, our reporter Elena Perdichi informed us.

Interview With PNTCD President Coposu

AU2607164193 Bucharest AZI in Romanian 20 Jul 93 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Corneliu Coposu, president of the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party, by Rodica Ciobanu; place and date not given: "The PNTCD Will Participate in Government if It Is Given a Free Hand"]

[Text] [Ciobanu] Mr. Coposu, it seems that there is some turmoil in the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party [PNTCD]. What is the reason for this?

[Coposu] The newspaper *EVENIMENTUL ZILEI* reported something to this effect, but it is not a serious issue. There was simply some quarrel within the executive bureau, as often happens in other such meetings as well, and some catastrophic conclusions were drawn from it. There is no turmoil whatsoever.

[Ciobanu] However, PNTCD parliamentarians are contesting Mr. Valentin Gabrielescu's position in the party's leadership.

[Coposu] Indeed, the secretary general was criticized for lack of dynamism in organizing the secretariat and Mr. Gabrielescu accepted the criticism. He admitted that he is submersed in duties and could not pay the necessary attention to the organizational activity. Therefore, he will present a plan for the restructuring of the secretariat. We will discuss this plan during the next meeting of the Central Coordination and Control Bureau, and we will take adequate measures to mend this lack of dynamism. That is all. No serious dissatisfaction was voiced, as the aforementioned newspaper reported, and there were no threats of withdrawal from the party.

[Ciobanu] Mr. Mircea Ciumara affirmed that he sent you a letter in which he violently criticized the CDR [Democratic Convention of Romania] program....

[Coposu] This is true. But you should know that in a democratic body, all options are valid. He is displeased with the content of the emergency program of the CDR, to which in fact he did not make any contribution, only our other representatives contributed to it. Some of his opinions are justified and we will reexamine them. This program was not edited by us, but by the plenum of the CDR. Certainly, we can disengage ourselves from the general point of view.

[Ciobanu] Did you vote against this document?

[Coposu] No, I voted in favor of it. As a matter of fact, I was one of the persons involved in the editing of the initial project. A commission of five persons was set up that corroborated all variations worked out by parties. Only the objectives that were accepted by all parties were retained. The fact that we view differently certain objectives can often happen. It is not possible that 18 organizations should agree on all points.

[Ciobanu] Mr. Ciumara claims that the ideas included in the program belong to Mr. Patriciu. Is this true?

[Coposu] No, he talked in haste and he was mistaken. Mr. Ciumara received false information and we later explained this to him.

[Ciobanu] Is it possible to submit to discussions again and review this program?

[Coposu] No, it is not. One can come up with another program. But the current program has been endorsed and more than that, it later received the approval of the PD-FSN [Democratic Party-National Salvation Front].

[Ciobanu] Mr. Coposu, the former PNL [National Liberal Party] leader Radu Campeanu says in an interview that "the PNTCD was and continues to be afraid to join the government." How can you answer this accusation?

[Coposu] The truth is that the PNTCD is not "afraid" to join the government. However, last year we categorically were against joining the cabinet in which we should have been only dummies. We were not given the opportunity to implement our program. Thus, we congratulate ourselves that, in contrast with the liberals, "whose words stuck in their throats" and accepted all the measures dictated by others, without having the smallest initiative and without being able to achieve the change of one single clerk, we spelled out clearly our viewpoint, namely that in order to participate in government we must have a free hand.

The result achieved by liberals can be seen clearly: It is catastrophic. Events confirmed that our attitude was the right one.

[Ciobanu] Do you believe that a political change is required in Romania?

[Coposu] Certainly. This is compulsory. And it will take place very soon, probably in September.

[Ciobanu] Are you contemplating a participation in government on the side of the PDSR [Social Democracy Party of Romania] while maintaining your own position?

[Coposu] We are not inflexible in a dialogue. We can negotiate tactics, strategy, and other details but not principles. If our principles are accepted and we get a free hand on the levers of power, we can join any combination. However, if an attempt is again made to use the opposition parties only as a facade, we are not going to consent.

[Ciobanu] How will this political change take place?

[Coposu] Through the initiative of the government, which realizes that it is incapable of managing this moment of crisis. They will withdraw without any pressure of the parliament or the president. This is my opinion and this is the result of the analysis that we made regarding political events and the dramatic evolution of economy and society.

Statistics Published on National Death Rates

AU2607175493 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian
21 Jul 93 pp 1, 2

[Val Valcu report: "Romania Ranks Second in the European Death Rate"—all figures as published]

[Text] Data released by the Calculation and Sanitary Statistics Center of the Ministry of Health confirm the tragic situation of our population after 45 years of communism. Owing to the fact that over decades no investments were made in health care, as a consequence

hunger, malnutrition, overall poverty, and lack of proper education have pushed our nation into this situation which still prevails after three years of the transition period. However, one should note the remarkable vitality of the Romanians, especially if compared with that of other nations that have been living under incomparably better circumstances.

Concerning the overall death rate, Hungary ranks first in Europe, with 14.57 deaths per 1,000 inhabitants, followed by Romania with 14.02, Bulgaria with 13.69, Switzerland with 8.24, and France with 8.17.

Concerning deaths caused by illnesses of the respiratory system, Romania ranks first in Europe with 915 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Bulgaria with 869, and France with 259.4.

As for deaths caused by malignant tumors, Hungary ranks first with 303.1 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Czechoslovakia and Denmark, while Romania ranks 15th, with 159.6 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants.

Concerning deaths due to violently inflicted wounds, our country ranks seventh with 76.4 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants; Hungary is first with 128.9, followed by Czechoslovakia with 92.8.

Hungary ranks first in suicide cases, whereas our country only ranks 14th. However, our death rate is considerably increased by the large number of victims killed by illnesses of the respiratory system, especially bronchial and lung diseases, which cause 117.9 deaths per 100,000

inhabitants. Current cigarette advertising in our country might play a major role in that.

Romania ranks first in infant mortality rate as well, with 22.73 deaths per 1,000 live births and with 61.1 deaths per 1,000 during the first year of the babies' lives.

The study has been completed on the basis of statistical data obtained over 1989, 1990, and 1991, but it may still be considered as most up-to-date not just because of the necessary amount of time to process the information but also owing to the fact that it takes at least as long as one decade to alter the situation significantly.

ROMPRES Reports 1,046,212 Unemployed in July

AU2607164993 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1427 GMT 22 Jul 93

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES 26/7/1993—1,046,212 unemployed were reported on July 26, some 10,000 more than at the end of June, with an unemployment rate of 9.4 percent as against 9.3 in late June.

957,367 unemployed were enlisted for benefits or allowances in July. 33,446 of them are workers, 107,599 high school graduates, 16,322 higher school graduates. 550,693 persons are granted unemployment benefits and 440,785 support allowances. 312,355 jobless do no longer meet the requirements of the unemployment law.

6,016 places were reported available, 365 for high and higher school graduates and 5,633 for workers.

Foreign Media Bulletin: Balkan Crisis 27 July
WA2707163793

The following is an overview of current FBIS reporting on events in the Balkans. It supplements other FBIS reporting and consists primarily of selected summaries of longer reports. For reference purposes, serial numbers of the longer reports are provided.

SUMMARY

Bosnian peace talks open in Geneva, participants express optimism ... Bosnian Serbs propose probe into attack on French base ... Bosnian Army releases French aid worker after 10 days of detentions ... Deployment of UNPROFOR begins in Maslenica, Zemunik ... Serbian trade unions threaten to hold general strike ... Vojvodina farmers block roads in protest over low wheat prices.

DIPLOMATIC

BOSNIAN PEACE TALKS OPEN (Belgrade Radio, Sarajevo Radio): Presidents of Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia, as well as representatives of Bosnian Croats and Serbs, arrive in Geneva for opening of Bosnian peace talks. Serbian President Milosevic says he expects talks "to attain significant progress," urges "main issue" involve dividing parts of country into three ethnic units. Sarajevo Radio reports members of Bosnian Presidency, which opposes partitioning the country and is instead proposing the establishment of a "unitary" state "within its internationally recognized borders," are also "optimistic" about the outcome of the talks. (AU2707140193, AU2607191893)

UN PROTECTION FORCE

BOSNIAN SERBS TO INVESTIGATE ATTACK ON FRENCH (TANJUG, AFP): Bosnian Serb forces propose joint UNPROFOR-Serbian investigation of 25 July attack on French base in Sarajevo. TANJUG reports UNPROFOR has accepted proposal, Serbs have appointed representatives for investigation. French General Cot, UNPROFOR commander for former Yugoslavia, backs warning by UNPROFOR Commander for Bosnia Briquemont that in the future UN troops will immediately retaliate for attacks. (LD2607161293, AU2607160893)

FRENCH AID WORKER RELEASED (AFP): Bosnian Army releases French aid worker after 10 days of detention, calls imprisonment a "misunderstanding." Aid worker says he, Serbian detainees, were "well treated" and fed "regularly." (AU2707135393)

UN TROOPS DEPLOYED IN DISPUTED CROATIAN AREAS (TANJUG): Fulfilling 15 July agreement between Croatian government, Krajina Serbs, Canadian UNPROFOR units were deployed at Zemunik airport, Maslenica bridge in preparation for Croatian withdrawal from disputed territories. (LD2607162093)

POLITICAL

SERBIAN TRADE UNIONS THREATEN GENERAL STRIKE (TANJUG): Confederation of trade unions in Serbia announce that "all workers in Serbia" will go on "general strike" on 5 August unless payments for salaries and pensions are "secured." (LD2607213093)

VOJVODINA FARMERS BLOCKADE ROADS (TANJUG): Vojvodina farmers blockade main roads in province to demand that federal, Serbian, Vojvodina authorities pay them more for harvested wheat and charge them less for fuel. Farmers threaten to continue to block roads, silos, mills, and bakeries until demands are met. (LD2607154493)

Bosnian Peace Talks To Begin in Geneva*LD2707075493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0727 GMT 27 Jul 93*

[Text] Geneva, July 27 (TANJUG)—Peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina are to begin in the Geneva U.N. headquarters on Tuesday morning through the mediation of the co-chairmen of the conference on the former Yugoslavia.

Co-chairmen of the conference Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg are expected to open the summit with bilateral talks with the representatives of the three Bosnian warring peoples—Serbs, Croats and Moslems. They are to convene a plenary session later during the day, or perhaps on Wednesday.

The first to arrive in Geneva were Bosnian Moslem leader Alija Izetbegovic and members of the pro-Moslem Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina in which there are no legally elected Serb representatives.

The Geneva talks had been delayed on two occasions because Izetbegovic had refused to negotiate.

The other negotiators—Bosnian Serb and Croat leaders Radovan Karadzic and Mate Boban, respectively—are expected to arrive in Geneva later, as are the mediators—presidents of the Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Montenegro Slobodan Milosevic and Momir Bulatovic, respectively, and President of the breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Croatia Franjo Tudjman.

It has been learned from the circles close to the conference that Lord Owen and Stoltenberg will open the talks with a discussion on the constitutional organization and the territorial division of the future Bosnia-Herzegovina. To be discussed is the Serb-Croatian initiative on the organization of Bosnia-Herzegovina as a confederation of three ethnic states. Moslems have so far rejected the initiative and demanded first a unitary state in which they would be a majority, and later a federation with a strong central authority.

Statement by Karadzic*LD2607160393 Pale Radio-Televizija Republike Srpske Studio-S Radio in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Jul 93*

[Text] Prior to the fresh round of Geneva negotiations let us hear what president of the republic of Srpska Dr. Radovan Karadzic said in a exclusive statement for our radio:

[Begin Karadzic recording] We are traveling, as we have always done in the past, to all talks to which we have been invited as an equal party. We would never travel if we were not treated as an equal party. However, we have always been treated as a warring side, which is what the media sometimes call the Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina but the conference circles do not do the same—as far as the conference is concerned there are three equal parties.

We are leaving somewhat hopeful that peace will be achieved, that the work on the maps will be improved, which could prevent further killing and destruction, although I have to say that this Muslim leadership does not instill hope, because it is as if the devil himself is persuading them to continue the fighting and destruction. [end recording]

Akmadic Optimistic About Talks*AU2607130693 Paris AFP in English 1236 GMT 26 Jul 93*

[Text] Zagreb, July 26 (AFP)—Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic left here Monday for key peace talks in Geneva with five other members of the Bosnian collective Presidency.

En route from Sarajevo, Izetbegovic made a two-and-a-half-hour stopover at Zagreb airport before going on to the talks on the future of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which are due to get under way Tuesday.

Members of his entourage indicated that he was accompanied by five presidency colleagues, the Croats Franjo Boras, Miro Lasic and Mile Akmadic, and the Serbs Mirko Pejanovic and Miro Lazovic.

Akmadic, who along with Boras joined the delegation in Zagreb, told journalists that Moslem member Fikret Abdic was already in Geneva and that the Serb Tatiana Ljubic-Mijatovic was on her way there.

"We will stay there (Geneva) as long as it is possible to find an agreement," Akmadic said.

"Now I am especially optimistic because all of us... decided we (will) stay there as long as necessary to reach an agreement," he said, adding that he believed the talks could continue for up to a week.

The presidency's number two, Vice President Ejup Ganic, had stayed in Sarajevo, a Bosnian diplomatic source said.

Rasim Delic, who as Bosnian Armed Forces commander in chief acts as a 10th member of the Presidency in times of war, is also not making the making the Geneva trip, sources said.

On his arrival in Zagreb earlier on board a U.N. plane, Izetbegovic pledged: "We are going to negotiate."

Bosnia's Options Assessed*AU2607164093 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Jul 93*

[Zijo Dizdarevic commentary on possible success of the Geneva peace talks]

[Text] The point is in the fact that Belgrade and Pale are not really for a [Bosnia-Herzegovina] confederation either. Therefore, they are not in favor of their own proposal. The Serbian hegemonists are convinced that

they are being offered a unique historic chance to achieve the greater Serbian project fully. Thus even a confederation is for them a false and temporary solution, a handy formula for the partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina into three states, which would valorize internationally the gains made through aggression and genocide. According to the same logic, this formula could solve the Serbian issue in Croatia in accordance with Belgrade's strategic aspirations. Basically, the all-Serbia idea would thus be achieved.

At the same time, there is no such armed force that would militarily shake Milosevic's intention. Milosevic's acceptance of a solution that would not be confederal is only possible if he is forced to accept it by a serious threat to his authority. The question that arises here is whether the consequences of economic sanctions—regardless of how catastrophic they may be—are seen by Milosevic as a threat to himself. That is the key point in any assessment of the possibility of finding a compromise.

Through negotiations, or without them, the aggressor is seeking to delay the implementation of the resolution on the safe havens, and to postpone it until the winter factor could become the primary political criteria and negotiating trump card. One should also not forget that the Panonian junta is very much keen on its parastate, and on the so-called referendum that rejected the Vance-Owen plan and decided on the readiness for the unification of all Serbs. The self-styled assembly of the so-called Srpska republic stated recently in Mrkonjic Grad that the decisions of the first assembly of the Antifascist Council of People's Liberation of Bosnia-Herzegovina were invalid. This was yet another attempt to deny the historical grounds for a state of Bosnia-Herzegovina. This also means that they do not want an agreement until they are forced into it.

As for the possible resumption of the Geneva talks, the international political authorities offer nothing that would strengthen our position. Christopher says that the United States does not care what the solution might be, and Clinton announces undefined help [word indistinct] in the implementation of any agreement. The Security Council calls for a halt to the offensive on Sarajevo and an interrupted flow of food, electricity, gas, and water, but does not call for an urgent implementation of the resolution on the safe havens and the passage of humanitarian aid.

Tudjman only wants a confederalization of our country, threatening that otherwise Bosnia-Herzegovina will be completely divided. He says this even though his and Boban's project of Herceg-Bosna has been torn like old newspapers and Croatia has been on a decline both internally and externally.

All in all, it is clear that the acceptance of a confederation would mean capitulation. The recent trends in the thinking of the state leadership seems to lead to a possible confederation internally and a federal state

externally so as to preserve the minimum—the wholeness and unity of the international entity of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Our readiness for compromise means little. Milosevic still directs the game. However, regardless of Geneva, we should, in the meantime, insist on the implementation of the safe havens and passage through the blue corridors. This could bring about an important change in the humanitarian and the military-political field.

Butrus-Ghali Condemns Serb Attack on UNPROFOR

*LD2707085393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0824
GMT 27 Jul 93*

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, July 27 (TANJUG)—U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has condemned an artillery attack on the French members of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo on Sunday and demanded an immediate halt to such actions.

A statement, released in the U.N. headquarters on Monday night and carried by REUTER, said that Butrus-Ghali had ascribed the attack on the UNPROFOR base in the Sarajevo sports centre Zetra to Bosnian Serbs and qualified it as "deliberate and heinous."

Butros-Ghali insisted that such actions against UNPROFOR and against the population of Sarajevo must cease immediately. He called on all parties in Bosnia-Herzegovina—which has been ravaged by a 16-month-old ethnic war between the local Serbs, Croats and Moslems—to honour a cease-fire agreement and urged them to resolve matters at the negotiating table.

President of the Serb Republic in Bosnia-Herzegovina Radovan Karadzic and Chief of the General Staff of the Army of the Serb Republic (VRS) Gen. Manojlo Milovanovic on Sunday night denied claims that Serb forces had attacked the UNPROFOR base and accused the Moslem side.

According to the initial investigation by the Serb side, they said Bosnian Moslems had carried out the attack in order to blame it on Serbs, as they had done in the past, with a view to thwarting the Geneva talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina which are to open on Tuesday and provoking a foreign military intervention.

UNPROFOR on Monday agreed to set up an expert group to establish facts on the incident. "By this initiative and by accepting international expertise, the serb side reconfirms that it had no reason to and that it did not open fire on the UNPROFOR base," a VRS statement said.

Incident To Be Probed

LD2607161293 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1343 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Pale, 26 Jul (TANJUG)—After fire was opened on combat and other motorized vehicles of the French UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] group in the region of Zetra in Sarajevo, for which the Srpska army was blamed, the general staff of the Srpska army has put forward a proposal that a group made up of experts of the Srpska army and UNPROFOR be immediately set up.

On the basis of the damage done and the position of artillery and other weapons around Sarajevo, this group establish on site what kind of weapon was used and precisely from which location the fire was opened on the base of the French UNPROFOR group, a statement by the General Staff says.

This initiative has been accepted by the UNPROFOR command for former Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Srpska army has appointed its representatives. The group will meet and begin work immediately, and will inform the General Staff about its findings. The public will then be informed.

By launching this initiative and accepting an expert international investigation, the Srpska army has again confirmed that it did not have any reason to open fire on the base, nor did it do so.

Retaliation Threatened if Attacked Again

LD2607170993 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1646 GMT 26 Jul 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, July 26—U.N. Commander in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina General Francis Briquemont on Monday threatened to retaliate if his forces came under attack again.

"This is the last time that we restrain ourselves from exercising our right to self-defence," Briquemont said on Sunday at the Zetra Stadium where the French U.N. peace-keepers are stationed, blaming the Serb side for the attack.

Many artillery rounds were fired at Zetra on Sunday. Moslem forces immediately filed a protest with the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR), accusing Serbs for the attack.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has categorically denied any responsibility of the Serb troops for the shelling. In a letter to U.N. Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, Karadzic said that Moslems had staged "a Serb attack" to undermine the new round of the Geneva peace talks starting on Tuesday.

Karadzic also demanded that a team of international experts investigate the incident and publish their findings.

It is believed that the Moslem leadership is hectically trying to persuade the world public, as it has done so many times before, that the Serbs are allegedly attacking civilian targets, in order to provoke a Western military intervention.

Chief of the General Staff of the Bosnian Serb Army General Manojlo Milovanovic on Sunday also denied that Serb forces were responsible for the Zetra attack. According to information obtained by the Bosnian Serb side, twenty shells were fired at Zetra from the Moslem positions at Bistrik in the old part of Sarajevo.

Denying Gen. Milovanovic's statement, Gen. Briquemont said: "It is impossible for the Moslem forces to have fired on the position where the U.N. base at a stadium used for the 1984 Sarajevo winter Olympics was located."

He, however, gave no explanation how did he know that the Moslems were not to blame for the attack and gave no evidence to substantiate his claim that the Serbs were the guilty party.

The attack on the U.N. base came just hours after a ceasefire came into effect.

Cot Supports Briquemont's Stance

AU2607160893 Paris AFP in English 1548 GMT 26 Jul 93

[By Dina Neretljak]

[Excerpts] Sarajevo, July 26 (AFP)—The Belgian commander of U.N. troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina ordered his commanders Monday to strike back immediately if attacked, while the Bosnian president arrived in Geneva for peace talks. [passage omitted]

He received firm support for his stance from his superior, French General Jean Cot, the commander of U.N. forces in ex-Yugoslavia who arrived in Sarajevo to visit the scene of Sunday's attack.

"It is probably the most serious and the most cowardly attack (on U.N. forces) since the start of this unfortunate affair," said Cot, who blamed the Serbs for the attack.

"I wholeheartedly support what has been done here under General Briquemont's orders, including the firm declaration he made this morning (on U.N. ripostes)," he added.

"It is very clear they (U.N. troops) were not in a position to respond. If they had been able to they would have done so, as they did a couple of days ago," said Cot.

He was referring to a sniper attack on a newly arrived French battalion on July 10. One soldier received a neck-wound in the incident.

Cot is due to visit the Macedonian capital Skopje on Tuesday for talks with the head of a 300-strong force of U.S. peacekeeping troops.

Sunday's attack on a French engineering base lasted for 45 minutes. A total of 68 rounds hit the facility, damaging many vehicles but leaving no casualties. [passage omitted]

Boban Sends Letter to UN on Muslim 'Aggression'

LD2607131093 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Mate Boban, president of the Croatian Community of Herceg-Bosna, has sent a letter to UN Security Council Chairman David Hannay and Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord David Owen, cochairmen of the Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, which we are broadcasting in its entirety.

Esteemed gentlemen: An aggression by the Muslim army of Bosnia-Herzegovina against the Croatian people and the formations of the Croatian Defense Council is continuing. We have been exposed to the crime of genocide and ethnic cleansing in areas in which Croats have lived for centuries. Alija Izetbegovic personally ordered that the towns of Vitez, Busovaca, and Novi Travnik be urgently seized before a fresh round of talks in Geneva begins.

From 4 June to today, 683 Croat civilians, including 48 children, have been killed in fighting in central Bosnia. There are 190,000 Croats living under complete siege and under the threat of mortal danger. About 209,000 Croats have been evicted so far, and seven towns have been completely ethnically cleansed: Konjic, Jablanica, Fojnica, Travnik, Kakanj, Zenica, and Bugojno. More than 150 villages have experienced the same. The Muslim aggressor has occupied around 3,700 square km of territory.

Croats kept prisoners in Muslim camps have been exposed to continuous forcible blood transfusions. There are harems in the vicinity of Bugojno, in the villages of Ravno and Rostovo, and in Zenica and Kakanj. These are brothels where Croat and Serb women, girls, and boys from the occupied areas have been subjected to the most vulgar torture and killing.

We possess documentation on innumerable crimes perpetrated for the most sinister motives, a large number of which UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] members are familiar with.

These facts ought to be taken into consideration, since they have a direct influence on the sense and purpose of the peace process. We demand that the Muslim side immediately stop its aggression and halt all attacks. This is a precondition for the entire peace process to continue. Otherwise, all Croat political and other representatives in all institutions of the government of the state of

Bosnia-Herzegovina are going to be withdrawn immediately, says the letter from Mate Boban to the UN Security Council chairman and the cochairmen of the Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

Presidency Member on Division of Republic

LD2607163493 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1614 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Zagreb, July 26 (TANJUG)—Croatian member of the pro-Muslim Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina Miro Lasic has said that this former Yugoslav republic "can only survive as a three-part state consisting of federal units which may be called communities, lands, republics or states," and which would have to participate in central government on an equal footing.

Newspapers in the former Yugoslav republic of Croatia on Monday reported Lasic as saying that "of decisive importance here would be a confederal formula which would not violate either the sovereignty, or the independence, state and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, while ensuring autonomy to each nation."

"A civil state, so loudly advocated by Muslims as late as last year, sounds well where there are conditions for it," but "in our circumstances this aspiration has proved to be an illusion," Lasic said.

The civil war, raging in Bosnia-Herzegovina between local Muslims, Serbs and Croats for the past 16 months, was provoked by Bosnian Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic's insistence on a unitary state dominated by Muslims.

In the latest round of the Geneva negotiations on Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Bosnian Serbs and Croats proposed that this former Yugoslav republic should be a confederation of three ethnic states—Muslim, Serb and Croat.

Lasic, who will participate in the next round of the Geneva negotiations scheduled for Tuesday, said that the most important subjects would be definition of the state, the number of its constituent units and the maps.

Speaking of Sarajevo, Lasic said administration in the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the future "must be on a parity basis, as in the central state government."

Bosnian Croats Report on Muslim Concentration Camps

LD2607171993 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Excerpts] Dr. Ljubomir Antic, president of the Croatian Sabor's [parliament] Committee for Protection of Human Rights, received in Zagreb Dr. Ivan Bagaric, a deputy in the Bosnia-Herzegovina Assembly and head of the Croatian Defense Council Health Department, Dr. Marko Rados, president of the Medjugorje Center for Human Rights, and Dr. Mladen Loncar, a member of the Medjugorje center.

They informed him about the situation facing the Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the proportion of the Muslim genocide against the Croats committed so far in the country of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

After the meeting a news conference was held. [passage omitted]

Dr. Marko Rados criticized journalists for presenting an untrue picture of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Only areas under the control of the Croatian Defense Council are accessible to journalists, but the areas where 200 Croat villages have been destroyed are not accessible.

According to reports by the Medjugorje Human Rights Center, presented by Dr. Mladen Loncar, the Muslims have set up concentration camps. A camp for women is located in the village of Celebici and there are another 10 such camps for men near Konjic. Crimes against the Croats are committed systematically and often with the blessing of international organizations, whose attention is focused on the alleged ethnic cleansing in Mostar, where the Muslims are now in the majority, it was said at the news conference.

Commentary Views 'Resumed' U.S. Role in Bosnia

AU2707111393 Sarajevo JAVNOST in Serbo-Croatian
17 Jul 93 p 5

[Kolja Besarovic commentary: "Injection for Weary Warriors"]

[Text] Despite the indications that the war drama in Bosnia-Herzegovina is approaching its inevitable end, that is to say despite the assessments that a realistic peace settlement has no alternatives, the latest events make such optimistic forecasts doubtful. Of course, it is still too early to make definite judgments whether the intentions of some crucial international factors to resume their places in the arena, and thereby make an already complicated situation in that region even more complicated, are strategic games or real options, but it is quite obvious that the latest, possibly the sole diplomatic signals from Washington (and Bonn) are endangering the peace process, or to put it more precisely, they are encouraging the seemingly weary supporters of the war option.

Perhaps in the content of those messages one should seek the major reason why Izetbegovic, after temporarily accepting the confederal reality, turned his back on it again, resisting the ethnic partition of the bygone pasha's province [pasaluk]. In such a situation it is not quite clear, though, what the real position of the Muslim leadership is, or rather what is Izetbegovic's attitude toward the federal (but not the one based on ethnic principles) option regarding the organization of the future joint state, which was proposed by the so-called incomplete Presidency of Bosnia-Herzegovina at its latest meeting. Such an option of the consolidation and

centralization of Bosnia-Herzegovina is not only unrealistic and for the Serbian side completely unacceptable, but also elicits the question whether (and which) Muslim leadership really earnestly supports the proposal, or if that proposal is about a well-known strategic game of dragging out the negotiations and gaining valuable time.

New "Mines"

Owen and Stoltenberg are endeavoring to organize the Geneva summit again, that is to say to bring Izetbegovic to the negotiating table, at least with the presidents of Serbia and Croatia present (since Muslims still refuse any direct contact with the leadership of the Srpska republic), in order to thaw out the obviously frozen negotiating process. Although the Muslim leader has announced his arrival in Switzerland, it is quite questionable whether his presence, even if he really comes to Switzerland, will be of any practical use. Because, despite the extremely unfavorable military situation, the Muslim leader will again have the opportunity to justify his diplomatic inelasticity with well-known U.S. arguments that are an objective obstacle to the accomplishment of plans elaborated by Owen and Stoltenberg, regardless of Washington's real intentions.

After a long period of silence and ostensible indifference, the U.S. Administration resumed its role in Bosnian affairs, and in such a way that makes the peace process at least more difficult, if not even detrimental. The accusations by Washington at the expense of the British-Norwegian mediating tandem, saying it is trying to force the Muslim side with unfair pressure into accepting what is not in its interest, have considerably narrowed the maneuvering space for Owen and Stoltenberg. Of course, they promptly denied the grounds for such accusations, but at the same time, in the report submitted to the UN secretary general, they openly implied (or rather proposed) the possibility of withdrawing the UN protection forces from Bosnia-Herzegovina. Although the justification for such a possibility, for the time being only a potential and alternative one, is stated to be the lack of means and appropriateness of relief aid supplies under conditions of more and more severe clashes on the fronts, it seems that the cochairmen realized they have been pushed to the wall by the lack of support of some crucial Western countries.

Of course, the question is whether this option of giving up Bosnia will really be carried out in practice, or if it is, in this case too, about a well-deliberated game of using announced threats to accomplish certain goals. Because, after all, it is quite illogical for this potential possibility to be made public alongside the official announcement of the deployment of additional UN protection forces in the so-called UN-protected areas, which should be protected by a NATO air-fleet that has recently been transferred to Italy.

That the U.S. Administration decided to strain the attitude toward the Bosnian crisis (that is, toward Serbs) again is unmistakably indicated by the TV reports of the

U.S. media, in which well-known pictures of "merciless aggressors," and "suffering, betrayed, helpless Muslim victims" reappeared after a long period of silence. As a reason for pursuing the new "humanitarian" media campaign the problem of inadequate water supply in Sarajevo has been used, for which, of course, just as was the case with the blockage of humanitarian aid, the ruthless Serbs have been made responsible: They have been using such inhuman methods to force the defenders of Sarajevo into surrender.

Saddened "Humanist"

Since such heartbreaking sights of Sarajevo saddened humanist Bill Clinton, he summoned the urgent meeting of his team of advisers for national security, at which, as was stated later, the possibility of removing the blockade on the humanitarian aid for this city had been considered. Although no definitive decision was made, the information was released in the public that six options and their possible implementation were discussed at that meeting. Those options range from the continuation of the policy of political and economic pressures pursued so far to the possibility that some radical Somali-type steps might be implemented, in which not only air forces but also ground (commando) forces would be deployed.

A question arises out of all that: What is the real purpose of such, for the time being hypothetical, threats by Washington, which is to say, do they function exclusively as a means of hardening the Muslim negotiating position, or is Clinton, despite the early, quite contrary indications, preparing, or rather seeking a reason for a new spectacular, although limited, military action? It is possible that the recent display of muscles is actually a warning to Serbs that with an offensive against Sarajevo they would step over a threshold the United States is ready to tolerate, or to put it more precisely, that Washington, despite a temporary pullback, does not intend to let Serbs and Croats divide Bosnia-Herzegovina without Muslim consent. In this complicated Bosnian game, where different, opposing interests confront one another, it is possible that the content of this American message has a totally different goal than the one interpreted by the most directly involved protagonists. Still, that cannot be any great comfort to those people who are driven away from peace by the moves of the most crucial international factor, or are at least forced into a more complicated situation, if that can make any difference at all.

Muslims Attack Encircled Croat Villages Near Bugojno

LD2707114893 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1100 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Excerpt] Muslims are continuing their attacks on the remaining free villages in the Bugojno municipality and their suffering population. Muslims are constantly calling on the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] units in these surrounded villages to surrender. About 3,000

refugees from occupied villages spent the rainy night under open skies. There is a shortage of food and medicine in the free parts of the municipality. Croats from the occupied parts of the municipality are still being taken away to detention camps: to the local sports center, grammar school, Hotel Kalin, and Ravno Ros-tovo. Last night, Muslim forces continued their conquest in the Fojnica municipality, seizing the strategically important Pasino hill. [passage omitted]

Muslim Army in Control of Bugojno

LD2607153093 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Report by Zdenko Vranjes]

[Excerpt] The Muslim army is now in complete control of Bugojno, after the storming of the Hotel Kalin and last night's capture of the base of the Croat Defense Council's [HVO] 2d Bugojno Combat Brigade.

Instead of respecting the cease-fire, Muslim forces are trying to carry out a hasty ethnic cleansing campaign in Bugojno and its vicinity. In their attack on the the last HVO stronghold, where a number of civilians had found shelter, Muslim troops resorted to toxic weapons. No reliable information exists on the fate of the soldiers and civilians from the Hotel Kalin and this base. Likewise, nothing is known about the number of casualties in the Muslim aggression on Bugojno. Since the beginning of their attacks, the Muslims have refused to allow the removal of bodies from the streets of Bugojno, and what has happened to a considerable number of Croats whom the Muslims have dragged off to internment camps is also an open question.

After eight days of resistance to the numerically far superior Muslim attackers brought in from Zenica, Travnik, and Gornji Vakuf, the HVO units were compelled to pull out from the surrounding villages of Udurlije, Rosulje, Causlije, Bogunovci, Kula, and Brstovi. It is almost impossible for civilians to leave these villages because the Muslim army is opening fire on refugee columns on the roads leading from Bugojno. The inhabitants of the remaining free villages in the Bugojno municipality are calling on the UN Protection Force and international humanitarian organizations to protect and rescue detained civilians and those still besieged by the Muslims. [passage omitted]

Serb Helicopters Fire Guided Missiles at Brcko

AU2607194093

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 1700 GMT on 26 July carries in its regular 35-minute newscast several reports on the fighting in the Republic.

Hamiz Deronjic reports from Brcko that "the Yugoslav air force has been attacking the positions of the Brcko defenders. The Serbian-Montenegrin aggressor was not satisfied with using about 100 armors [oklop, not further

specified], several multiple rocket launchers, Volkov missiles, and strong infantry forces, which include several hundred Russian mercenaries, in attacks against the free Brcko territory, so for the third time during the last six days he used the air force. The aggressor's (?Mil 6) helicopters fired Maljutka guided missiles at the defense positions in the region of Omerbegovaca and Vranovaca. These attacks have been supported by heavy artillery and tank fire against the same region. Dozens of people have been killed and wounded as a direct result of orders by Colonel Litica, who commands the general offensive against the free Brcko territory. If there is any justice left for the Bosnia-Herzegovina people then this blood-sucker should face charges for war crimes."

The Gradacac Information Center reports that "a tank from [word indistinct] fired some 10 shells at the town at midday. The enemy Vis fired on several occasions from Gornje Krecane at the streets and intersections in the town. The chetniks have been using antiaircraft guns against Pozarike, (?Novi Konak), Sibovac, and the industrial zone."

The studio announcer cites the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army First Corps Information Center as saying that "after 1600 [1400 GMT] the aggressor intensified his combat activities on the Sarajevo front. Shells were landing on the civilian targets in Golo Brdo and Mujkica Brdo. A howitzer from Poljine fired at the city's center."

Reporting from Gorazde, Enes Musovic reports that "the intensity of the combat activities is somewhat less than the previous days, but still areas along the [word indistinct] River were shelled. The aggressor's mortars were also active on other parts of the Gorazde front."

'Intensive Chemical Attack' in Sarajevo

AU2707104893 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 27 Jul 93

[Text] Immediately before the beginning of our newscast we received a report that the aggressor's infantry began an offensive at Golo Brdo in the region of Zuc at about 1100 [0900 GMT]. The defenders readily responded to the offensive. In its attacks the aggressor is using chemical agents and, the people in the First Corps Press Service claim, this is the most intensive chemical attack on the Sarajevo region since the beginning of the war. Wind has been blowing the cloud in a southeasterly direction. There is the danger of its effecting Buca Potok as well, so citizens of these regions are warned to take necessary protection measures.

Mt. Igman Front 'Stable'

AU2707095893

[Editorial Report] Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian at 0800 GMT on 27 July carries several reports on the fighting in the Republic.

A report from Brcko by Hamiz Deronjic and Nihad Salihovic calls the situation in the free Brcko territory

"extremely dramatic" and says that "the Serbian aggressor is continuing the all-out attack on the defense lines and civilian targets. Throughout last night, the enemy used howitzers, tanks, recoilless guns, mortars of all calibers, Praga antiaircraft machine-guns, and Bofors and Broving weapons to attack all the defenders' positions. The aggressor's terrorist and sabotage teams tried to compensate for the lack of success of tank and infantry breakthrough attempts." The report says that "at 1815 [1615 GMT] last night, enemy tanks started pounding areas deep inside the free territory with heavy [word indistinct] shells. The attack lasted until 2005." Finally, the report says that "at the front lines, the fighters of the 108th Motorized Brigade and 108th HVO [Croatian Defense Council] Brigade of Brcko and the fighters of the accompanying units of the Second Corps of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina are withstanding all the the Serbian aggressor's attacks."

A report by the Gradacac Press Center says that "there are no significant changes in Gradacac. An illusory peace still continues, although the aggressor occasionally uses his artillery. Yesterday evening, a (?zis) began pounding roads and the town center from the chetnik stronghold of (?Polucje). The regions of Luknici and [name indistinct] were hit by about 20 120-mm mortar bombs fired from Visovi. Artillery shells of the same caliber fell on [name indistinct] Gornja and Zelinja Srednja." The report says that "as usual, the chetniks are taking advantage of the relative calm" to regroup their forces and "bring up new equipment and technology. Thus, last night, several large columns of vehicles were observed moving from Milosevac and Modrica toward Bosanski Samac and further on toward Gajevo and Obudovac."

A report by the Information Service of the Third Operation Group from Kladanj says that "the latest cease-fire was a total failure in the zone covered by the Third Operation Group. Apart from the usual provocative antiaircraft and small arms fire on the Olovo front, Serbian (?renegade) forces, operating from their lairs in (?Aratovaca), pounded the positions of our forces and civilian targets."

Samra Cengic reports from the First Corps Information Service on the situation on the Mt. Igman front that "morning in the city began with enemy artillery fire. The aggressor pounded Vis and Golo Brdo with artillery from [word indistinct] and his firing positions around the city. The enemy used banned weapons, that is, chemical agents at about 0800 this morning. The chemical assault was carried out [word indistinct] at (?Kolo Smiljevici), albeit without any consequences. This morning, the aggressor's snipers were firing sporadically on almost the entire city. As regards the Mt. Igman front, the enemy regrouped their forces along the well-known attack positions. A considerable concentration of enemy manpower was observed in the Bijela Liska region and the village of (?Bijenovici). A combat helicopter was also spotted, but it did not carry out any combat action." Finally, the report says that "the defense lines on the Mt. Igman front are firm and stable."

Deployment of UNPROFOR Unit at Maslenica, Zemunik

LD2607162093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1353
GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Knin, July 26 (TANJUG)—The deployment of UNPROFOR's [UN Protection Force's] Canadian battalion started on Monday at 9 a.m. at Zemunik airport and Maslenica bridge in the south of the Republic of Serb Krajina (RSK) which is a U.N. Protected Area (UNPA), TANJUG learns from military sources in Knin.

The sources say the blue helmets will not take control of these locations until the final Croatian soldier and policeman withdraws from this occupied area (under the recently signed agreement the deadline for this is July 31).

Croatia and RSK agreed on July 15 in Erdut that all Croatian troops withdraw from RSK territories occupied by Croatia during its aggressions in January 1993 and June 1992.

In return, RSK will allow Croatia to open for traffic the bridge spanning the Maslenica bay and Zemunik airport near the Adriatic town of Zadar on July 18. Under the Erdut agreement, the two locations, together with the Peruca dam, will be under exclusive UNPROFOR control.

Military and civilian authorities in RSK spoke in the past two days in Knin with UNPROFOR representatives on monitoring the pullout of the Croatian forces from the occupied territories.

Serb military sources in Knin say that the Croatian Army continues provoking the Serb forces by various means, aiming to cause stronger military action, but the RSK military troops are refraining from responding.

Over the past few days the RSK military authorities warned that Croatia is massing fresh troops to the frontline, thus opting to "extend the war and spread the aggression to RSK."

Unconfirmed sources on Monday say, however, there are indications that the Croatian forces are slowly pulling out or preparing to do so. This can be concluded from the fact that houses are being burnt and destroyed in the now occupied Serb villages of Islam Grcki and Kasic, which are to be controlled by the RSK police and UNPROFOR under the Erdut agreement.

As usual, the Croatian forces are destroying everything in order to erase all traces of the centuries-long existence of the Serb people in these territories.

RSK was proclaimed within the former Yugoslav republic of Croatia by the local Serbs in 1991 in areas where they are in the majority and in response to the forcible secession of this republic from the former Yugoslav federation. Since last spring, RSK is a U.N. Protected Area.

Krajina Foreign Minister Views Conflict

AU2607174693 Belgrade Radio Beograd Network in Serbo-Croatian 26 Jul 93

[Telephone interview with Slobodan Jarcevic, Krajina foreign minister, by unidentified correspondent; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] We have Mr. Slobodan Jarcevic, the foreign minister of the republic of Serbian Krajina, on the line. Good day.

[Jarcevic] Good day.

[Correspondent] Your statement, which has been broadcast, claims that Croatia is using all available means to dodge the decisions in the Erdut agreement. Can you elaborate on the ways it is trying to do so?

[Jarcevic] These are very simple ways, and the Croat delegation tried to abuse the decisions of the Erdut agreement for the first time in Vienna. They want to leave a part of their army in front of Maslenica and in front of the Zemunik Airport. Since both structures are on the territory of the republic of Serbian Krajina, our government cannot accept this. The UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] was received by Prime Minister Bjegovic two days ago, and it proposed something similar, showing an agreement that UNPROFOR had signed with the Croat side [sentence as heard]. However, we told them that we are not bound by any contract that had been signed by two sides without our participation. The most important thing is that we are asking that all the regulations of the Erdut agreement be respected. Moreover, we want the Croatian Army and police to withdraw from the territory of the Miljevac plateau, Maslenica, and Ravni Kotari, and from the area of the Peruca hydroelectric plant.

We are not interested in anything else, and the latest news which we received this morning, is that the Canadian battalion is being deployed on Zemunik Airport. This is somewhat different from what was verbally agreed in Erdut. Namely, UNPROFOR, thinking of its troops, said that they need 24 hours after the withdrawal of the Croatian Army to deploy their troops in the occupied areas and along the demarcation line. If UNPROFOR is now deploying the Canadian battalion, this means that the Croatian Army and police are going to remain between this battalion and our army. If they continue provoking and attacking as they have been doing so far, it is certain that the forces of the Canadian battalion will be threatened, because the Croat artillery is stationed somewhere around the airport.

[Correspondent] Let me ask you how you communicate with the Croat side? Do you do this through UNPROFOR, or do you have some kind of direct hot-lines, so to speak?

[Jarcevic] We do not have hot-lines or direct contact with the Croatian Army and police, and we also do not have them with the negotiators, with whom we only have

indirect contact in Geneva or New York. This is the way we met in Geneva. We entered a very large hall, we were at one table, they at another, while at the head of the table were Owen, Stoltenberg, or their deputies. We address the presidents, they address the presidents, and we say what we want. Otherwise, we have no contact, no direct talks, and there is no handshaking.

[Correspondent] How do you understand a possible outcome, since we all know that there is a great concentration of weapons in this area, and if real clashes do occur, this is going to be hell, regardless of the fact that war has been present in this area for a long time now. This could really be something that has not been seen so far. Do you expect that maybe negotiations will prevail, in place of...

[Jarcevic] You have correctly pointed out that both sides have numerous and well-armed armies. In the case of a direct clash and the spreading of the war, there would be casualties on both sides. Of course, the war would no longer be waged in the way that Croatia wants, which has been the case so far. Until now, they chose the place and time of an attack. We only defended ourselves in these places. These places were favorable for the Croatian side.

In the case of a new aggression, or the spreading of the aggression, the Serbian general staff will decide the place and time of an attack against its aggressor.

[Correspondent] Another topic. The conflict of the Krajina, the Serbian people with the Croats that is, did not occur only in this area. Today we received information that the Krajina government has addressed the Prime Minister of Japan, and has informed him that Croatia is dumping radioactive waste on the territory of the Krajina. The locations are in Srem, Slavonia, and so forth. You have informed a number of relevant institutions throughout the world, you have asked them to come and see for themselves. What do you expect to come of this, or actually, what evidence do you have that Croatia really is doing this?

[Jarcevic] You have said that the conflict between the Croat and Serbian ethnic community on the territory of the former Croatia is almost eternal. This is correct. I always say that for 200 years the Croat political thought has had nothing else for a goal but the extermination of the Serbian people and the establishing of a Croatian state on their territory. They have been doing so from the time of Ante Starcevic to Tudjman's time. Not one

Croatian political leadership has been different. I just want to remind you that, in 1939, the Croatian Peasant Party [HSS], headed by Subasic and Macek, carried out expulsions as soon as the Banovina Hrvatska was proclaimed. Had Macek taken power in 1941, Jasenovac, and all the other things that Pavelic did to the Serbian people, would have taken place just the same.

Therefore, Croatia is planning all kinds of measures against the Serbs, it just wants to get rid of them, so that it can take the territory to the Drina River, which is what they call their historical and cultural border. It is true that Croatia has intentions of dumping nuclear waste, radioactive materials and chemical waste, only in areas inhabited by Serbs. These are the areas of central and eastern Slavonia, western Slavonia, Kordun and Banija. We have this documentation, copies of originals from Zagreb. The dumping of the waste has been sanctioned at the meeting of the Hexagon experts in [word indistinct] on 15 September 1992.

In order to implement this, Croatia destroyed many villages and the infrastructure in western Slavonia, since other areas came under the authority of the government in Knin, they were left with only this territory in western Slavonia. The destruction of the villages and infrastructure is connected to the fact that one of the conditions for radioactive waste dumping is that there should be a small number of inhabitants in this area.

We have acquainted the Secretary General, all the member countries, and all the countries who have troops in UNPROFOR with this material. These people can also be irradiated. Moreover, at the time, we also informed General Nambiar, Owen and Vance, the WHO, and the international organization for the prevention of war, nuclear war. We also informed all the countries of the Danube Basin, because our experts have established that, in western Slavonia, there is no possibility of dumping radioactive materials, because it would simultaneously contaminate the air, soil, and water. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] We hope that this topic—since it does not only concern ethnic groups, but actually constitutes a danger for the entire world—will interest the world, and that it will send its experts to establish whether this, so to speak, specific crime is really taking place. Mr. Jarcevic, thank you very much.

[Jarcevic] Good bye.

Arms Cache From Saudi Arabia Discovered at Airport

LD2707120393 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1120 GMT 27 Jul 93

["Pool item"—by Igor Saranovic]

[Text] Ljubljana, July 27 (TANJUG)—The discovery of over 120 tonnes of smuggled arms in Slovenia for Moslems in the war-ravaged former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina is getting the proportions of an international scandal.

The arms containers labeled "humanitarian aid", discovered at Maribor Airport in the breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia last week, arrived from Saudi Arabia. The peculiar humanitarian aid arrived from Jeddah, via Sudan and Budapest, aboard Russian-made IL-76 planes.

A Hungarian-Ukrainian company, which provided the planes and was accused of participating in the affair, claims that it did not know what was in the containers, but that it was no secret that Slovenia sent arms to Bosnian Moslems.

The Maribor case might easily damage Slovenia's international reputation, as the investigation has found that not only individuals, but also the state, have been involved in arms smuggling for quite a while.

It is hard to accept the assurances by Slovenia's Defence Minister Janez Jansa that for months no-one had noticed the 11 "humanitarian aid" containers at Maribor Airport with the largest delivery of smuggled arms discovered in the past few decades in Europe.

Only two days after this statement, Jansa said that "the arms dealing is one of the activities of a well organized network which has connections in diplomacy, international organizations, firms and institutions in Slovenia."

He also said that the chief supplier was the Vienna company Drug- Impex with a mixed Serbian-Slovene capital and that the arms had arrived in Slovenia from several neighbouring states—Austria, Hungary and Italy.

After the Budapest airline had denied the claims that it was involved, Jansa's claims were denied by Director of the Slovene branch of Drug-Impex Darko Zupan who underscored that no "Serbian-Slovene company" was at issue and that the company had "exclusively Austrian capital."

"We had contacts with Slovenia's Defence Ministry when we made an offer for U.S. weapons cleaning oil," Zupan said and added "it is a miracle that a defence minister cannot tell the difference between machine-guns, mortars and oil."

Jansa is apparently covering up the tracks and trying to prevent the internationalization of the scandal and an international investigation which might reveal the real role of some states in the Yugoslav crisis.

All participants in the affair have violated U.N. arms embargo imposed in 1991 on the former Yugoslavia which includes Slovenia. By discovering the participants in the affair, an international investigation would discover those who stepped up the war in the former Yugoslav Republics of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, instead of trying to stop it.

Minister Clears State of Complicity

AU2707075693 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in Slovene 1330 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Ivan Bizjak, minister for internal affairs, and Mitja (Klavora), director of that ministry's Criminal Service, held a news conference this afternoon and presented several new facts on the investigation into the discovery of weapons in a warehouse at Maribor airport. The two pointed out that first reports have indicated that the affair did not involve any state institutions, but rather individuals from these institutions. Here is a report by Robert Skerjanc:

[Begin Skerjanc recording] Ivan Bizjak, minister for internal affairs, said in his introduction that the decision to hold this news conference today was made by the prime minister's political collegium, which informed Dr. Drnovsek about the new findings of the investigation. The minister pointed out that so far all the facts indicate that no state institution was directly involved in the weapons affair, but only some individuals employed in them.

Mitja (Klavora), director of the Criminal Service, presented a reconstruction of the story of the weapons discovered at Maribor airport. The affair dates back to the spring of 1992, when some citizens of Austria and Bosnia-Herzegovina met in a neighboring state and agreed on the deal and the shipment of the weapons. The weapons, which first reports suggest were infantry weapons produced in China, were brought to Maribor Airport from several airports. It was planned to use 26 Russian helicopters to transport them to the crisis areas. A problem arose, namely that the helicopters, which were painted white at Maribor airport, took only bulk freight and smaller crates. The organizers of the deal therefore had three crates shortened and adjusted for helicopters in a Slovene company. The main organizer of the shipping, an Austrian citizen who owned a company transporting humanitarian aid, was arrested in Hungary in December 1992 for suspected drug trafficking and is still in prison.

The director of the Criminal Service also said that several suspects, including the Maribor airport director and Silvo Komar, head of the Maribor Security Service, had been arrested.

The facts also show that the smugglers did not manage to ship the weapons and that the entire consignment was stranded at Maribor airport where it was discovered. [end recording]

Description of Cache

*AU2107203793 Ljubljana Radio Slovenia Network in
Slovene 1700 GMT 21 Jul 93*

[Text] Eleven containers full of various weapons—automatic rifles, mortars, mines, and tank and other ammunition, a total of several thousands of items—were discovered in the warehouse at Maribor Airport today. At the news conference at Maribor Airport it was stated that the containers were supposed to have contained humanitarian aid. Defense Minister Janez Jansa said the following at the news conference:

[Begin Jansa recording] In the course of yesterday our ministry obtained information which initially seemed implausible, but, when a certain name was mentioned, it matched some indications that we had had from earlier. This information alleged that the chief of the Security-Information Service [VIS] for the Maribor region had had several containers of weapons stored at Maribor Airport for a long period of time. Reportedly, the cargo was stored in a transit warehouse. As I have already said, the information seemed very implausible to us. We

called [director] Mr. Kosir from the Customs Office who immediately promised to check up. The customs officers checked up this morning and among 12 containers at the airport warehouse that were supposed to be filled with food, they discovered 11 full of arms and ammunition. The arms are destined for the east [not further specified], and most are without the manufacturer's name. The cargo consist of several thousands of automatic rifles, a small number of mortars, mines, and ammunition, which you will be able to see later.

To my knowledge, this is the largest quantity of arms and ammunition that has been seized being smuggled in this part of Europe, or if you wish, in Europe in general, over the last few decades. [end recording]

We should add that the Slovene Intelligence Security Agency, SOVA for short, has already taken all the necessary steps to investigate all the circumstances of this case. Disciplinary measures have been taken against Silvo Komar, the current chief of the VIS Maribor Operative Zone.

Federal

Government Adopts Platform for Geneva Negotiations

LD2607184893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1409 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Belgrade, 26 Jul (TANJUG)—At a special session held under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Radoje Kontic today, the federal government for the first time comprehensively considered and established a platform for the participation of the Yugoslav delegation at the international conference on Yugoslavia in Geneva, the Federal Information Ministry has announced.

In its platforms for the participation of our delegation in the working groups for humanitarian issues, for the measures aimed at restoring trust, security and verification, for ethnic communities and national groups, for succession, and for economic issues, the federal government noted open issues from the work of the Geneva conference so far, and established principled stands for the participation of the Yugoslav delegation at the forthcoming negotiations.

The federal government today proclaimed invalid all previous decisions and conclusions of the former government, in connection with the appointment of members to working groups of the Geneva conference, and charged all former Yugoslav delegations to submit reports on negotiations as soon as possible.

A conclusion was made that the Federal Foreign Affairs Ministry ought to monitor the situation regarding issues being examined by the working groups of the Geneva conference, and when the need arises, it ought to propose to the federal government to update and renew platforms and stands for negotiations.

The federal government will submit established platforms for the participation of the Yugoslav delegation at the international conference in Geneva to the Federal Assembly and the republics for their information and their acting in line with them.

Officials View Chances for Peace in Bosnia

AU2607200293 Belgrade RTB Television Network in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Snezana Rodic report]

[Text] On the eve of the continuation of the Geneva negotiations, Vladislav Jovanovic, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's foreign minister, and Zeljko Simic, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Committee for Monitoring the Geneva Negotiations, held a news conference.

Minister Jovanovic informed the press that the government had adopted a general platform for our delegation's activity in the Geneva negotiations, and added that the

basic strategic point is that Yugoslavia is an international and legal entity, which is continuing the statehood and the international and legal capacity [medjunarodno-pravni subjektivitet] of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia.

Jovanovic assessed that the problems of lifting the sanctions, regulating Yugoslavia's international status, and reintegration into international life are the priorities of our foreign policy. In answer to what he expected from the Geneva negotiations, Minister Jovanovic said:

[Begin Jovanovic recording] I expect the best, like all of us who want peace quickly and finally to prevail in these areas. I assess that the chances for peace are a lot greater than they ever were earlier, but I also assess that the opponents of peace are still strong enough, tough, and active, and that they are not missing any opportunity to harm the chances of peace.

What happened in Sarajevo a few days ago, the attack on Zetra, is one these attempts, only it is not a very original one, because it is a copy of the precedent which has already been used in the past, whenever the peace conference was entering a decisive phase. In spite of this, the international community is ever more numerous and decisive in opting for a conclusion to the war in Bosnia, and in opting for freeing the international community and its activity from this Bosnian mortgage [sentence as heard].

This is a new and encouraging moment and an argument which, I believe, will prevail in the end, and which will convince both Mr. Izetbegovic and those foreign factors which are supporting him in his obstructions, to give up his last illusions and to look for an equal solution together with the other peoples in Bosnia-Herzegovina within the Geneva conference.

Personally, I think that the next round—tomorrow's meeting—could and should be more productive than the former ones. [end recording]

Commenting on the postponement of the Geneva negotiations, Deputy Prime Minister Simic said:

[Begin Simic recording] On the basis of all available facts and arguments, it is clear that the Bosnian Muslim side, led by Alija Izetbegovic, is trying—in every possible way—to evade a solution to the Bosnia-Herzegovina war, the civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina that is, on the principles of a consensus. I believe that this is the only reason and the only motive why the Geneva negotiations were postponed. There is no other reason, all the more so because the other two sides, the representatives of the other two constituent peoples in Bosnia-Herzegovina, have agreed on the most important issues which were formerly a problem. [end recording]

Both Minister Jovanovic and Deputy Prime Minister Simic gave a lot of attention to the problem of lifting the sanctions, which, in their assessment, is directly connected to the solution of the entire Yugoslav crisis. Both

Jovanovic and Simic believe that the sanctions cannot go on because even the international community has finally realized that the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a civil war, and not aggression.

Therefore, there can no longer be any justification for blaming only one side for the war, since—as Jovanovic put it—this compromises the international community itself. The Yugoslav diplomatic head told the press that France and Russia have promised to launch a process in the Security Council for lifting the sanctions as soon as a peace agreement is reached. Here is why Deputy Prime Minister Simic believes that the sanctions cannot go on:

[Begin Simic recording] If the sanctions imposed in midyear last year resulted from an impulse or from some kind of retreat before the pressure exerted by certain world powers, then it is quite obvious today that the international community is tightening the sanctions regardless of common sense, and that it is implementing them despite elementary norms of humanitarian law.

We have to be quite open and say that these sanctions are not directed against either this state or this regime, but—in my personal opinion—they are directed against the biological survival of all the citizens in this country. Therefore, this government should and will make every effort to convince the international public that the sanctions are senseless. It will also make every effort to establish the necessary conditions for a further dialogue with all the relevant factors of international public opinion. [end recording]

Jovanovic Says FRY Successor to Former Yugoslavia

LD2607212093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2038 GMT 26 Jul 93

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, July 26 (TANJUG)—The basic strategic point of departure the Yugoslav delegation will adopt at the resumption of the Geneva conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina is that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (F.R.Y.) directly follows up on the statehood of the former Yugoslavia on the part which remained after secession of some of its republics, said Yugoslav Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic Monday.

Elaborating on the general platform of action of the Yugoslav delegation at the Geneva conference the Yugoslav Government adopted Monday, Jovanovic told a press conference the platform paid special attention to the question of succession of the former Yugoslavia as well as on ethnic communities and minorities.

Jovanovic said the international sanctions against the F.R.Y. lost all *raison d'être* since it was a civil war on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina and not a Serbian aggression, something the international community, too, has come to realize.

The sanctions against the F.R.Y. were introduced over its alleged involvement in the civil and ethnic war in Bosnia-Herzegovina between the local Serbs, Croats and Moslems.

Insistence on the sanctions and their tightening had an adverse effect on the negotiating process at a time when, as he said, a "just and lasting peace" in Bosnia-Herzegovina was within reach.

Jovanovic said that the F.R.Y. was contributing to ceasefire and lasting peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina as the international community has asked of it. He added that some countries, including Russia and France, have indicated they would launch the proceedings aimed at lifting the sanctions, while China and Great Britain, as he said, would follow suit.

He assessed that the chances for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina were now higher than ever before, and went on to describe his optimism on the eve of the Geneva talks Tuesday as "moderate", but based on facts that two peoples in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Serbs and Croats) have agreed to opt for peace.

Jovanovic said the Yugoslav Government also considered relations with the former Yugoslav Republics (Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia) and the ways to regulate and normalize relations with these newly-formed republics and states, something, as he noted, that would demand different approaches and would not be simultaneous.

Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Zeljko Simic, who also attended the news conference, said the international sanctions were aimed against the biological survival of all citizens of the F.R.Y.

Simic said the meeting late last week in Belgrade between Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Willy Claes, foreign minister of Belgium, which currently holds the E.C. Presidency, failed to take place as Milosevic was not in Belgrade and that there was no reason for the meeting in Geneva not to materialize in Geneva or in Belgrade early next month.

Lilic on Sanctions, Efforts for Peace

LD2607153893 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1507 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Belgrade, July 26 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav President Zoran Lilic said on Monday that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is making maximum efforts to make possible the direct talks between the representatives of the three warring sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina starting from the stand that a confederation is the only realistic solution for this former Yugoslav republic.

During talks with Yves Bonnet, the head of a French parliamentary delegation, Lilic expressed hope that France and its parliament will confirm Yugoslavia's policy of peace and urge the European Community and

the U.N. Security Council to lift the inhuman sanctions against Yugoslavia, says a statement issued by the president's cabinet.

In late May last year the U.N. imposed comprehensive sanctions against Yugoslavia for its alleged involvement in the now 16-month-old war between the local Serbs, Croats and Moslems in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Bonnet said that the sanctions are unjust and contrary to human rights, especially of those who are at the greatest risk: children, the elderly and ill. He promised to urge their lifting and the intensification of relief aid to Yugoslavia.

In a statement to journalists following the talks, Bonnet said "it is not normal that the sanctions affect in such a serious way the ill, children and elderly."

"Humanitarian aid should reach Yugoslavia as well, and the U.N. resolutions are not opposed to this," he said.

Bonnet said he had visited a number of institutions for sheltering refugees, as well as a psychiatric hospital, with the aim of investigating the humanitarian situation of a country facing an international embargo. He said that the problem of raw materials for the manufacture of drugs should be given a priority within the relief aid issue.

Yugoslavia should either be allowed to import drugs or allowed to manufacture them, Bonnet said and added that he believes the latter solution to be better.

Allied Air Capability Assessed

AU2607141393 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian
18 Jul 93 p 2

[Miroslav Lazanski report: "A Modest Fleet in the Skies of Bosnia"]

[Text] The United States of America and Great Britain have recently transferred new air force units to bases on the territory of Italy in line with the Security Council resolution on safety zones for six towns in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina. Thus, on the basis of this resolution, NATO has primed air forces that are meant to extend support to the UNPROFOR [UN Protection Force] forces in this area. The newly arrived combat planes include U.S. A-10 "Thunderbolt" attack planes and British "Jaguar" attack planes.

Twelve A-10 "Thunderbolt" planes from the 17th United States Air Force arrived at Aviano Air Force Base in Italy from Germany. United States experts believe that the A-10 Thunderbolt, along with the AX-64 "Apache" combat helicopter, could be the most powerful weapon of the United States in supporting UNPROFOR in the gorges of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Ugly and Slow

Its wings are not fixed like modern combat jets and two engines are positioned quite clumsily on the fuselage. However, despite the fact that it is slow, with a maximum speed of 681 km per hour, the A-10 is relatively agile and carries a cargo of seven tonnes of bombs and missiles, and possesses a multi-barrelled, rotating, 30-mm caliber gun with a GAU-8 Gatling system. The "tank killer," as pilots in the West call the A-10, was actually designed for battle with armored enemy vehicles; this is a plane that can operate independently, even under night conditions, with a dozen tanks.

The A-10, which United States pilots sometimes even call "Warthog" because it is so ugly, is produced by the Fairchild Republic company. It has been part of the United States Air Force since 1975, and had its combat debut during Desert Storm. The "Thunderbolt" is actually a flying platform on which it is possible to affix all types of guided and unguided bombs and missiles, ranging from television guided surface-to-air "Maverick" missiles to various cluster bombs. Its multibarrelled, rotating gun can crack open a tank like it was opening a can of sardines because the grenades that the A-10 uses are made from low-grade or already-used uranium and are therefore very strong.

Otherwise, the A-10 is armored, particularly on the pilot's cabin and the control devices, so that it is resistant to strikes from antiaircraft artillery. However, regardless of the armor and powerful weapons, the A-10 is not an all-powerful plane and the question is if it could repeat the combat results of Desert Storm in the gorges of Bosnia. It is one thing to fly under desert conditions with benignly configured terrain, but it is another to fly over the hills of Bosnia-Herzegovina where the pilot, despite the most modern offensive-navigational systems, must under difficult meteorological conditions take care to keep to the flight pattern as well as reach his targets and open fire. With good and directed fire from the ground from artillery systems of 20, 30, and 40 mm, as well as "2-M Arrow" missiles, even the A-10 in the skies of Bosnia is nothing special.

"Jaguars" Have Been Shot Down

The "Jaguar" airplanes that Britain is now sending to Italy are also fighter planes that were tested in the Gulf war. They are not armored like the A-10, but they are quite fast and fly at a maximum speed of 1,600 km per hour and can carry several tonnes of combat cargo depending on the flight pattern. Otherwise, Great Britain and France, which also has "Jaguars," are already beginning to replace these planes with more up-to-date planes for their Air Forces. In the war against Iraq, the "Jaguars" were the western planes that were shot down most frequently because they had to fly low in order to hit the runways of Iraqi airports. Of course, the "Jaguars" are not bad planes. The Yugoslav "eagle" was based on them but the "Jaguar" is very sensitive to strikes from the

ground, has a very complicated maintenance program, and in the end does not fall into the category of the United States F-16 planes.

Transferring the A-10 and "Jaguar" planes to Italian airports will not engender any dramatically new military situation, but perhaps it is more the desire of the West, if it is after all in a position to carry out an air attack on targets on the ground, to ensure that it is not the most expensive planes that are shot down by antiaircraft fire from the ground but planes like the A-10 and the "Jaguar," which are several times cheaper.

Automobile Industry Survives Despite Sanctions

93BA1234C Belgrade EKONOMSKA POLITIKA in
Serbo-Croatian 28 Jun 93 pp 14-15

[Article by M. Simovic: "The Automobile Industry: How To Survive?"]

[Text] There is no need for much explanation of the business and production problems faced both by the firms that belong to the Zastava Group and also those involved with it through industrial cooperation which have bound up most of their program with the industry manufacturing passenger cars and commercial vehicles, if you already know that this year they will not produce more than 10,000-12,000 out of the planned 40,000 automobiles and that they will attempt to at least keep the name of a manufacturer of commercial vehicles with 100 or so trucks. However, a tragic balance sheet recording the effect of the disintegration of the SFRY and the UN sanctions that were imposed is rounded off only when we add to those figures the datum that thousands of workers in the metal-manufacturing, rubber, textile, and plastics industries have been left without work in Serbia and beyond throughout the former space of Yugoslavia because of the plunge taken by the Kragujevac Automobile Factory, reducing its production from over 200,000 units to the number mentioned above, while the truck factory went from the 10,000 projected for this year (the project was worked out earlier with the foreign partner IVECO) to just some 100 trucks, made virtually by hand.

In view of the consequences for the entire industry of Serbia and the catastrophic drop in employment because these two vehicle producers were put out of commission, the government of Serbia (with what success is another question) has been paying particular attention to Zastava, trying to help it retain some kind of ability to do business so that after the sanctions are removed it can take over the role of one of the locomotives for pulling the Serbian economy out of the mud.

"Survival" Philosophy

The negative overall effect of the disintegration of the SFRY and one year's effect of the UN sanctions was recently set forth in a meeting with newsmen by Dr. Radoljub Micic, general director of the Zastava Group, who, of course, did not quantify the level of losses in

terms of financial indicators, which would have been absurd for these giants in view of the size of the drop in the volume of output on the one hand and the value of capital invested in these two factories, which still record a labor force of about 19,000, on the other.

Under these circumstances, neither Dr. Radoljub Micic nor his closest associates any longer avoid the word "survival," because it finally has to be acknowledged that it is an attempt "in some way to continue living and doing business, of course, under all the constraints imposed by the sanctions and the blockade." The philosophy of "survival," stated very approximately, is based on diversification (initiating new production programs), substitution (production of parts and components to replace production in the former Yugoslav republics, in support of the basic program—automobiles and trucks), minimum production of vehicles so as to preserve the firm's necessary business identity and the vitality of equipment, and a request for aid from the republic to finance the personal incomes of workers laid off because of the effect of the blockade. (In May, about 16,300 workers were paid from the Republic Fund for Personal Incomes.) The republic was also being asked to support certain development programs involving either substitution or diversification of production; the fund for stimulation of the Serbian economy's development has been willing to listen to the requests of enterprises in the Zastava Group, especially as far as automobiles and trucks are concerned, and particular emphasis is being put on that here. A sense of reality is also being incorporated more and more firmly into the survival philosophy: From the initial observations that the blockade will last a few months to optimism based on inaccurate information (this year's plan to produce 40,000 automobiles was adopted on the "premises" that in the first quarter there would be a "relaxation of the blockade, and a liberalization of trade flows between the FRY [Federal Republic of Yugoslavia] and other countries even by midyear"), there has been a sobering up with respect to the persistence of the international community in protecting its interests and objectives on the one hand and concerning Yugoslavia's political and economic importance in its immediate and broader environment on the other. At this point, unpleasant, but approximately accurate, parameters are assumed, and as a consequence they know that instead of 3,000 or 4,000 automobiles a month, they will be producing barely about 1,000, regardless of the constraints, as Micic says, but also regardless of "completion of the assimilation of almost all the items which were outside this territory of ours."

If the assumption were made that substitution of parts and assemblies that formerly came from Slovenia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina could make it possible to essentially increase the production of automobiles even under the conditions of the blockade, this would be to forget that the FRY does not offer Zastava Automobiles the number of customers it needs. At the present price of the average value of labor, a Yugoslav needs to work 15 years to buy a car. That is, the

consequences of business operation under the sanctions are becoming increasingly problematical, especially for so-called high-class goods, whose price is rising as the production run becomes smaller. That accounts for the orientation toward diversification of production, in keeping with the trend to reach the broadest customer market with our products. In that way, we will increase the employment of workers and equipment, and also take in certain amounts of money with which we can attempt to maintain the new production, but also the basic program. When all is said and done, to a certain extent even the principle of development and preparation for the time after the embargo is removed on business with the world is built upon the "survival philosophy," it is said at Zastava. As for development, Dr. Radoljub Micic says that the restyling of the Yugo is just about complete, and the electric Yugo (which in competition with some 20 similar automobiles in the world was placed among the best) is being prepared for operation and commercialization.

Qualified Hope

Regardless of all the circumstances that surround the Zastava Group, six of its finishing plants (automobiles, trucks, weapons, tools and machines, and also the special-vehicles plant in Sombor and the production of medical reagents for diagnosis) represent everything in the power of the factories at the moment to preserve their ability to do business, to achieve the possible level of output, and to carry on intensive preparations for the period after relaxation and possible removal of the blockade. Dr. Radoljub Micic's assessment is that in certain factories (weapons, machines and tools) the sanctions are being surmounted with increasing success, and also that certain component manufacturers have shown visible progress in development and recovery, whether it is a case of import substitution or bringing new programs to production. There must be a decisive condition for hope, as well as for true despair. Is there room for hope with respect to the Zastava Group? From everything Micic said in the regular press conference, it follows that the basic condition for hope has been met: Weapons production is operating at a satisfactory level, the truck factory is ready to resume production with the foreign partner at a day's notice, which would mostly be for export, the tools and machine factory has put new programs into production and entered into the phase of some small liberation from the adverse consequences of the blockade, the automobile factory—in spite of the drastic drop of production—has not ceased development of certain models, which at the same time has been having a favorable impact with respect to taking over the production of many components which were imported, the special-vehicle factory in Sombor has successfully resisted the sanctions in spite of the reduced volume of production, and YUGOMEDICA is preparing to begin the production of drugs.

It is well-known that all the negative factors of the blockade, the sanctions, and the disintegration of the SFRY and the Zastava Group are still in the process of

producing their cumulative effect, but it is also clear even now that when the factors limiting production and the operation of the market are removed, this group of factories will truly be in the forefront of the Serbian economy's development.

When the negative impacts of the present circumstances are totaled up, it must certainly be said as well that close contacts are being maintained with many partners in the world and production for export (not confined to automobiles and trucks) could begin as soon as the ban on business with the rest of the world is removed. The strategy for behavior and the sequence of moves have been set, and possible arrangements have been set up with partners abroad. This is one more condition for hope. What remains is to survive until that moment.

Successful Tourist Agency Viewed

93BA1234D Belgrade EKONOMSKA POLITIKA in
Serbo-Croatian 28 Jun 93 pp 15-16

[Interview with Branko Jelovic, director of the Passport Zepter Travel Agency, by S. Bogdanovic; place and date not given: "We Are Not Waiting for Visitors, but Creating Them"]

[Text] Zepter, the international company headquartered in Switzerland, began its European campaign offering quality cookware, which quickly became a symbol of quality eating, economy, and everyday help in the household in some 20 countries of the Old Continent. Zepter's Yugoslav office went even a bit further in its business gestures. Thus it formed a bank, a sector for international and domestic trade and representation of foreign firms, and even a Zepter Travel Agency, which was something rather unusual at that time and which in its bold marketing efforts has invigorated mainly the domestic public and in less than a year of its existence has broken through to the very top of Yugoslav tourism.

And on 8 June of this year it was just one year from the time when the first traveler bought a travel arrangement and Passport Zepter took care of its first visitors. Exactly a total of 69 days passed from the birth of the idea of creating the travel agency and the hiring of Branko Jelovic to direct it, which he still does, and that eighth day of June. A year of successful business operation has passed since then, which is evident that the idea and conception for creation of the travel agency was a marketing bull's eye.

[Bogdanovic] How did you hit upon the idea of housing a travel agency under the same roof as a store selling pots and pans?

[Jelovic] We had to start something to maintain our ties with the clientele Zepter already had, that is, to maintain communications with those who had bought Zepter's cookware. We had the addresses of those customers, we knew their purchasing power, and we wanted to offer them beautiful trips, quality vacations. Reality did a bit to correct that original conception of ours. Tourist

facilities were no longer what we could count on at that time, the quantity and quality of the offering underwent change, and we could not keep our promises to them. So we looked for new room on the market, and we found it in the sudden vacuum that occurred in passenger transportation when our country was blockaded and completely shut down our air carriers. A quick and quality replacement was needed for the services which JAT [Yugoslav Airline] had been rendering, because there were still travelers going out into the world from Yugoslavia. Passport was the first to offer travelers transportation to a foreign airport by taking them to Budapest, from which they would depart by plane.

[Bogdanovic] Because certain other foreign airports are closer to Belgrade, why did you choose Budapest?

[Jelovic] It is true that there are closer airports and less expensive services, and here I am referring to Timisoara, but the quality of the offering in Budapest and in that city cannot be compared. And then there are border problems as well, the impossibility of offering quality services, and so on. That is why we opted for Budapest rather than Timisoara, which is a two-hour drive closer. In Budapest, we then set up a manager's "station," which with quality guides from the country helped travelers to find their way from the moment they entered the bus in Belgrade until they checked in at the airport in Budapest. And then there were also many other advantages of passenger transportation offered by doing business through Budapest; at any moment, Zepter in Belgrade could offer a customer the best possible service such as a discount for children, the type of aircraft, and the shortest connection to the destination chosen.

[Bogdanovic] These business gestures also partially explain that segment of your business operation which comes under the head of marketing, to which your firm obviously pays quite a bit of attention.

[Jelovic] When we finally realized that the closest domestic airport was 400 km from Belgrade, we made our offering more advantageous and popular with new tourist-transportation innovations such as free transportation to Budapest for all those who bought their tickets from us, and also free visa, distribution of daily newspapers, video programs that could be watched, offers to purchase real estate on Cyprus, as well as the promotion of travel packages to that destination, the presentation of Zepter's basic program, and soon an exclusive offering of Belle Padgett is being initiated. So, everything takes place in the bus during the trip to the airport: entertainment, sales, and business. There is evidence that we are on the right track in the datum that in one "transitional" month like April, we sold 1,602 airplane tickets, and also the information that slightly over 62 percent of those who have already made their travel arrangements with Zepter have decided to do it again and have notified us.

[Bogdanovic] This year we also had a virtual boom in our tourist-business offering for Cyprus, sensing that

unless the situation in our country straightens out, there will be more Yugoslav businessmen there than here.

[Jelovic] We offered customers air travel to Cyprus on a scheduled airline whose fares can compete with charter flights, and in Cyprus they could stay in the new Four Seasons Hotel, which because it is new does not want to raise its prices, and we created there the Passport Cyprus Business Club, because we assumed that in this situation the traveler going to Cyprus would not be interested in just the sun and the sea, because he can get that here, but also might be an individual possibly interested in starting some business there. It is a place where he can get information, meet people, make his first business contacts. Our motto as far as Cyprus is concerned became: "More than a vacation!" I also believe that exclusiveness has become our trademark, but I am certain that our customers also notice that being exclusive does not mean being expensive.

[Bogdanovic] Because we live in very uncertain times, are you afraid that soon you will not have customers, that people will stop traveling?

[Jelovic] If you look at the analysis of our target groups, you can easily conclude that it would be difficult for us to wander into that blind alley. In the first group are people who have to travel on business, official duties, to fairs. The second group is made up of those who want to go abroad to visit relatives or friends. We probably will not be providing them accommodations, but they will also be our customers. Then we can also include here those who have enough money to buy and acquire something abroad. The third group is made up of one-way passengers, who, that is, are traveling on a lengthy stay to earn some money, to sell someone their idea, to succeed somewhere. Passport Zepter does not have to make any further marketing investment to reach those travelers it already has, because their impressions and stories are our best recommendation. Here, we will perhaps even have a saving, but I must say that we have never wanted to save when it came to the marketing segment. Even at the price of announcing some profit, we invest to create a favorable image of our organization.

DPS Leader Marovic Discusses Party Goals

93BA1247A Belgrade NIN in Serbo-Croatian 9 Jul 93
p 26

[Interview with Svetozar Marovic, secretary general of the Democratic Party of Socialists, by Z. Ivanovic; place and date not given: "We Do Not Know What Will Happen"]

[Text] "We had the impression that this was a Socialist Party that would like to avoid the notion of Yugoslavia."

[Ivanovic] Lately there have been a lot of different interpretations of the recent conclusions from the meeting between your party and the SPS [Socialist Party

of Serbia). You believe that "integration" was mentioned, while they say that "unification" was agreed to. So tell us, what was it really?

[Marovic] The DPS [Democratic Party of Socialists] wants to be a party of cooperation and a party of patient and reasonable decisions. That is why we believe that one should not hurry along any public matter, because fast decisions in politics are not good. Political life means life with differences, not life with like-minded people. In this sense, we showed interest in cooperation during our talks with the SPS, appreciating the fact that it is a party that in terms of its public pronouncements also supports a modern and equitable federal state, that it is a party interested in social justice, and finally, that it is a party that has a great deal of influence on the development of political events in the country. For their part, they did emphasize their belief in the prospects for creating one socialist party, although it remained unclear whether it would be the Socialist Party of Yugoslavia, or would lack that ("Yugoslav," ed.) element. We had the impression that it is a socialist party that would like to avoid the notion of Yugoslavia. Their stated support for the formation of party branches in Serbian Krajina and the republic of Srpska also confirms our impression that they are committed to leaving out the name of the country to which we have jointly committed ourselves. In that case, there remained many unclear issues in connection with their proposal—not only its goal, or the character of that sort of commitment, but also the possible consequences of any such action. We think that right now there are no reasons or arguments that would justify our talking about an initiative like this as an all-encompassing and clear proposal that would obligate our party to discuss it more seriously right now.

[Ivanovic] The fact that the Serbian socialists were thinking extremely seriously is borne out in part by the statement by Mr. Percevic, who apparently, in seizing upon this very DPS consent to "unification," concluded that it is now clear that you are not preparing for any sort of Montenegrin secession either!?

[Marovic] No single party, including ours, can decide what the status of Montenegro will be under international law. I think that Mr. Percevic neglected this constitutional provision of the Republic of Montenegro, I hope with good intentions. On the other hand, I am sorry if it has taken this long for Mr. Percevic to recognize the sincerity and seriousness of the DPS's intentions, which in turn is not my problem, but rather his. Anyway, there are plenty of phobias surrounding this business of Montenegrin secession, on which many political ambitions and goals are being built. Montenegro is a constituent part of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and we do not think that this link would be any more stable and solid if the two leading parties were united. On the contrary, the idea sounds too ideological and is a relapse to the previous era, when party allegiance guaranteed the stability of the state.

[Ivanovic] It is interesting that a little earlier in this interview you stressed the dilemma of whether a future party would have the word "Yugoslav" in its name. It seems to me that this reveals a fundamental difference in the attitudes of the two parties toward the plan to create a "Union of Serb States"—the SPS is "for" and you are "against."

[Marovic] I have already said that we do not know what the ultimate goals of such an idea are. We have learned only that it would be called the Socialist Party. However, we have not discovered whether the SPS is talking to any other party in Montenegro about the idea at the same time. Still, we believe that they are primarily interested in reaching an agreement with us, given the fact that the DPS is not only the majority party in Montenegro, but also a party with a clear and identifiable commitment to Yugoslavia, equality, and democracy.

[Ivanovic] Have you made any ties, and cooperation in general, conditional on the breaking off of the connection between the SPS and Seselj's radicals?

[Marovic] In our talks we have never made anything conditional, because we believe that such talks cannot be equitable at the start. The SRS [Serbian Radical Party] is a party that has factually cooperated rather well with the SPS, although there are differences between them. It remains to be seen what sort of relations they will have. We will follow and analyze this closely, but we are both unable and unwilling to exert decisive influence on them.

[Ivanovic] Even despite the bitter clashes between your party and the radicals, is a tripartite alliance nevertheless possible in the near future: SPS-SPS-SRS?

[Marovic] The DPS does not aspire to any sort of alliance or unification. I can say that freely, although I have no right to pass judgment on such matters. The DPS is a serious and strong party that has its own program, goals, and people, and on that platform our obligation is to cooperate with all parties. I do not believe that right now there exist reasons or real expectations that the DPS will make any move or launch any action that could draw into question its influence, importance, and power in the Republic of Montenegro, or in the FRY.

Serbia

General Strike Set for 5 August

LD2607213093 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2101
GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Belgrade, July 26 (TANJUG)—After the latest price hikes, the Presidency of the Council of Confederation of Trade Unions of Serbia decided on Monday evening that all workers in Serbia will go on general strike on August 5 until the demands of the trade unions are met.

The presidency asks the authorized organs to preserve real wages and pensions on a level of subsistence and in accordance with the agreement signed by trade union and government representatives early this month.

The trade union also asks that cash be secured for salaries and pensions, that robbing and transformation of socially-owned property be stopped, and that those responsible for the monetary chaos be named.

President Milorad Vujasinovic said that it was better to organize the strike immediately than to leave workers and pensioners to go with the current and resolve vital problems of subsistence in the streets.

The presidency is taking over the office of the strike committee.

Montenegro

President Bulatovic Views Situation in FRY

AU2607083893 Zagreb GLOBUS in Serbo-Croatian
16 Jul 93 pp 12-13

[Article including interview with Momir Bulatovic, president of Montenegro, by Jasna Babic in Podgorica; date not given: "In the FRY There Is Growing Ultrationalism With Characteristics of Fascism!"]

[Text] Podgorica, former Titograd, is shocking: It is a town that is simply falling apart in front of everybody. Taxi drivers no longer pretend to switch on the meter, but charge their own rates for their services; people sit on the edges of sidewalks waiting for city buses for hours; garbage bags are not taken away for days and the garbage is being thrown about the streets.

Even the steps on Lenin Boulevard, the headquarters of Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic, do not look any better: They are covered with garbage and coated with excrement; ground-floor windows are broken and broken pieces of glass lay around.

The increasing decadence was most evident on the day several seriously ill patients were released from the Kotor mental hospital. Due to the shortage of medication, the Kotor doctors left them on their own. One of them, still wearing his hospital pajamas, miraculously wandered to the Podgorica promenade. At first, his mad behavior amused malicious passers-by, causing eerie laughter and practical jokes of the more primitive kind; then he attacked them. The medical center emergency team was called to help, so that the sick man finally got a dose of sedatives. However, the drama reached its climax only then: male nurses and policemen quarreled about who would transport him to Kotor. None of them wanted to spend precious gasoline on the anonymous crazy fool.

Leading an unprecedented, almost cannibalistic, campaign against "vampire-like ustashas"—meaning simply

Croats—Podgorica television seems to have finally convinced many Montenegrins that Serbian conquests against Croatia and Bosnia were justified. Comparing their misery with the destinies of refugees from Sarajevo and "liberated Croatian and Bosnian territories," the average inhabitant of Podgorica seems to find it easier to accept his destiny. He therefore passively and numbly resigns himself to his own present and future: lining up for gasoline at 2.5 German marks per liter, lining up to get flour from commodity reserves, making exhausting and futile attempts to get around inflation....

"Both Milosevic and sanctions are better than war!"—this is the most common conclusion reached by the residents of Podgorica.

A Podgorica Radio journalist who is better paid says: "My salary for June was 80 million dinars. When I lined up at the bank to get the money, it was worth 80 German marks. After one hour, the bank teller paid the amount I required, but it was worth only 60 German marks!"

Indeed, on 2 June, at 10 o'clock in the morning, one German mark was worth 1.4 million dinars on the Podgorica promenade, while in the evening of the same day, at the same place, the same dealer was selling it for 1.8 million Yugoslav dinars!

There are very few shops in Podgorica in which prices are displayed. They change every couple of hours, according to the increase of the value of the German mark.

The poverty of the inhabitants of Podgorica is not yet causing social unrest. Preoccupied with existential troubles, most Montenegrins do not seem to have time to think about who is responsible for everything (the majority thinks that the sanctions are the main cause).

Developed after World War II as an achievement of communism and industrialization, the town today is without identity. All historical remnants in Titograd were destroyed together with the Turkish bazaar. And so Podgorica became a settlement of proletarianized cattle breeders, who came from the north, "from Vasojevici"—as they call this area—where Montenegrins consider themselves to be Serbs.

The same alliance of Montenegrins and Serbs carried out, in 1989, a political coup, which placed at the head of the Republic Momir Bulatovic, son of a JNA [Yugoslav National Army] officer stationed in Zadar, activist of the Central Committee of the League of Communists and eternal assistant professor at the Titograd Faculty of Economics.

Only when he became President of the League of Communists of Montenegro, and then president of the Republic—who always voted in favor of Serbian proposals—the young politician managed to realize his scientific ambitions as well. Montenegro Academy of Sciences—in his honor only!—established a special award

for scientific accomplishments. As soon as it was awarded to him, it was abolished.

They culminated in September and October of 1991, when Podgorica and Cetinje Montenegro made a total split over war issues. In a nutshell, "the green" [Montenegrin nationalists] supported the Croats and the Muslims, while "the white" [pro-Serb Montenegrins] sided with the "exhausted Serbian brothers."

We should give an example of an isolated instance of Bulatovic's resistance to Slobodan Milosevic as an interesting symptom of political spirit in Montenegro. When Milosevic replaced Dobrica Cosic who was the president of the federation of Serbia and Montenegro, Momir Bulatovic gave a statement to Podgorica POBJEDA that he was hurt by that move, because no one consulted Montenegro about it.

That is why the latent separatists support the current Montenegrin government. They think Bulatovic represents the same thing as the Liberal Alliance of Montenegro, but a less radical variant—the wisdom of the way in which they will defend themselves from Belgrade, but also avoid the domestic "white-green" war. Obviously, the assistant professor from the Faculty of Economics knows his people very well.

The conversation with Montenegrin President Momir Bulatovic went exactly as we expected: he had a ready-made answer to every question and explained almost nothing.

As soon as the arranged half hour was up, and the tape recorder was switched off, a miracle happened and Momir Bulatovic suddenly turned into a different person. Not only did he change his story but also the color of his voice. He complained that the Montenegrins fought a war against the properties and houses of Konavli "manipulated by false information of the JNA." "The Army reported on strong forces of the MUP [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and the National Guard Corps, about 15,000 Croatian soldiers, while there was not more than 500 of them." And then he inquired about the extent of damage in Zadar....

Momir Bulatovic lived in Zadar for 15 years. He graduated from high school there in 1975.

Indeed, the meeting with the GLOBUS journalist could not have been very pleasant for the Montenegrin president: it was, at the same time, a meeting of high school friends from Zadar High School! However, showing no uneasiness, Bulatovic was concentrating very hard and "worked through" the interview.

Nevertheless, Zadar is still a nostalgic topic for the Montenegrin president and this is clearly evident from his memoirs, written and published in the fall of 1991, on the eve of Serbian and Montenegrin aggression against Croatia.

[Babic] Your memoirs reveal a great feeling of nostalgia for Zadar.... As an influential and powerful man, did you do anything to stop the destruction of Zadar?

[Bulatovic] It is true, I feel a great deal of nostalgia for Zadar in.... However, my book also describes the fear of those events: the fear of war. During the war, I thought a lot about Zadar, asking myself if I did not live in some other town, the town in which no one cared about your nationality. That may have been one of the characteristics of youth. I inquired: I know that Zadar was badly damaged. I am sorry about that, but I did not have the power to prevent it.

[Babic] Newspaper archives have photographs of the Trebinje battlefield, of you and Milo Djukanovic visiting Montenegrin reservists....

[Bulatovic] I still think that, in its essence, the attack on Dubrovnik was strategic to the defense of Montenegro! Strong police forces of the Croatian MUP were accumulated on Debeli Brijeg; there were constant provocations and threats. We were informed that Croatian authorities in Banski Dvori [seat of Croatian president] treat Boka Kotorska as a part of historic Croatian territory.

[Babic] And those verbal "provocations" caused setting fire to Konavli and a criminal attack on Dubrovnik?

[Bulatovic] I am speaking about basic defense operations concepts, and not about what was done. Unfortunately, the war has its consequences.

[Babic] If we can judge by certain friction between Podgorica and Belgrade, the new federative creation is suffering from the same problems as Tito's Yugoslavia. As if the Montenegrins feel marginalized compared to the Serbs....

[Bulatovic] You are right. Today in the new federation we discuss, like we did before, the basic questions of state organization. A third Yugoslavia exists in dangerous surroundings, accused as the only, and main, culprit for the war. Our neighbor is Bosnia-Herzegovina and all its war horrors. We suffer under the sanctions and social problems caused by them, and, at the same time, we have unclear relations in the new federation. It is in the interest of Montenegro and its need to continue existing in the same state with Serbia, but the main goal of our political plight is to secure an equal position for Montenegro in the FRY. We are aware that it will not be easy, because of economic and other potentials in the Republic of Serbia, which are significantly greater than in Montenegro.

[Babic] You often say that the common goal of the Serbian-Montenegrin left is to get even with the nationalists. Do you have in mind Vojislav Seselj too?

[Bulatovic] I hope that the Serbian Radical Party will soon outgrow its populist phase, which used to be characteristic of the Party to which I myself belonged. I hope it, too, will become a more normal and more rational, classic parliamentary party. Unfortunately, the

political map of Serbia and Montenegro shows that there is a series of quite small but very radical and extremist forces against which we also have to fight.

[Babic] You did not answer my question about Seselj. He was elected to the Assembly with great assistance of Milosevic's party, so it sounds paradoxical that you will also deal with his radicalism....

[Bulatovic] Seselj's party is a product of the times. You cannot expect, in these relations and in such fierce conflicts, that there exist only pacifist parties. On the other hand, I keep proving to the world that economic sanctions help the growth of radicalism and ultranationalism with characteristics of fascism in the FRY.

[Babic] In the past three years, the concept of Montenegrin sovereignty has become stronger: It is articulated by the Liberal Alliance of Montenegro. If that party wins the elections and declare Montenegrin independence, what will you do?

[Bulatovic] We already have democratic rules in Montenegro. Those parties that publicly advocate the sovereignty of Montenegro are also represented in the Assembly of Montenegro. Right now, they make up 30 percent of the Assembly. In spite of their convictions, they respect the will of the majority. However, if, at some new elections they should get the majority vote, we would be obliged to accept that. Although I personally do not think that would be correct or good!

[Babic] A small group of people protested in front of the Presidency building, the day before yesterday. They were the relatives of the Muslims kidnapped on the Belgrade-Bar train, about whom no one knows anything yet. Is there really no information about them?

[Bulatovic] I have talked to these people before, three times already, very openly and directly. The kidnapping, as you know, did not happen on the territory of the FRY. But we nevertheless sent out our state security operatives to Bosnia-Herzegovina to examine the case. We were even prepared to "buy back" our citizens and play by those crazy rules of the game. Our man came back very soon, after being almost killed. After that, the only thing we could do was to ask Karadzic and Krajisnik to organize an investigation themselves, because it all happened on the territory under their control.... However, let me remind you that we do not yet know what happened to many citizens of Montenegro who were either members of the JNA [Yugoslav People's Army], or were captured by the HVO [Croatian Defense Council] in Herzegovina. At my last meeting with Mate Boban I also spoke about their possible release or exchange. That was during the last round of negotiations in Geneva, where the cease-fire between Bosnian Serbs and the Croats was supposed to be supported. I encouraged that agreement together with Milosevic. Moreover, we proposed to meet Boban and Karadzic in Herceg Novi the next time. As you know, we realized that meeting.

[Babic] Do you not fear that the ethnic division of Bosnia would legalize the ethnic division of your FRY?

[Bulatovic] I do not think it is a bad thing that Bosnia was divided into ethnic constituent units. That was the condition for the territorial delineation of all belligerent parties. Unfortunately, the fact that there is a civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina in which all three sides are equally involved, was taken into consideration only recently. After the conflict between the Muslims and the Croats, it became clear that the ethnic cleansing is not only done by the Bosnian Serbs. That is why the Vance-Owen plan could not stop the war. The Muslims have interpreted the Vance-Owen plan as the guarantee for the indivisibility of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its armed forces. The representatives of Herceg-Bosna interpreted it differently, and that is why the conflict broke out. And this is how the plan fell through and the tripartite Bosnia became a reality. Tripartite Bosnia became legalized because it was accepted by two out of three belligerent parties.

[Babic] What will you do with Kosovo?

[Bulatovic] On the moral level, it is easy to solve the Kosovo problem, but the reality is quite complex. In any case, there is fear that the conflicts from Bosnia-Herzegovina will spread to Kosovo as well. I do not believe there should be any conflicts in Kosovo if the interests of local inhabitants are respected. The war in Kosovo is possible if the interests of great forces clash there; then the war would be even more horrible than in Bosnia. I think that the solution of the Kosovo problem must grow out of two principles: Kosovo must stay in the Republic of Serbia but it should be granted a sensible level of autonomy. That means that the Kosovo Albanian representatives must give up their ambitions.

Kosovo

Police Surround Village After Attack on Patrol Car

AU2607153293 Paris AFP in English 1505 GMT
26 Jul 93

[Text] Pristina, Kosovo, July 26 (AFP)—Serbian police Monday surrounded a village in the troubled province of Kosovo after shots were fired at a police patrol car in the latest of a series of such attacks on Serbian police, a local human rights group said here.

Police arrested 15 people and were questioning all the residents of Sekirace, where the attack occurred late Sunday, leaving one police officer wounded, said the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights.

The policeman was not seriously wounded, according to the official news agency Tanjug.

"Large numbers of police" had surrounded the village near Podujevo, 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of the Kosovo capital Pristina, since dawn, the group said.

Similar attacks have occurred in recent months in Kosovo, which is 90 percent ethnic Albanian, following constitutional changes made by the Serbs in 1989 which the ethnic Albanians said deprived them of autonomy.

Ibrahim Rugova, head of the Kosovo Democratic League (LDK), the region's principal ethnic Albanian political party, said these "unaccountable" incidents are "used by Serbian police as a means of wide-scale repression of the (ethnic) Albanian people."

However, the Serbian language newspaper JEDINTSVO (Unity), which mirrors the official line, blamed Rugova for "encouraging" Albanian separatists to carry out such attacks.

Belgrade recently refused to extend the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe's (CSCE) mandate to continue long-term observation missions in Kosovo, Sandzak and Vojvodina, two other regions where inter-ethnic tension is rife.

Vojvodina

Farmers Blockade Main Roads in Protest

LD2607154493 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1220 GMT 26 Jul 93

[Text] Novi Sad, 26 Jul (TANJUG)—As they had earlier announced, at noon today Vojvodina farmers blockaded most of the main roads in the province in protest at the policy on the purchase of wheat harvested this year.

Combines, tractors, and other farming machines were placed across the Novi Sad-Zrenjanin road (near Zabalj), the Novi Sad-Belgrade road (near Kovilj), the Sava river bridge in Sremska Mitrovica, and roads in Backa Palanka, Srbobran, and other places.

The blockade will last until the demands of Vojvodina farmers have been met, according to Djordje Garabandic, chairman of the organizational committee for the blockade of roads, silos, and other farming and food-producing facilities.

The committee, which includes representatives of farmers from almost all Vojvodina municipalities, calls on the federal, republican, and provincial governments to set the protected wheat price at 25 pfennigs per kg payable in dinars at the black market exchange rate on the day of purchase.

They also demand consistent implementation of a decision on the sale of wheat and the sale of gasoline and diesel on the basis of the so-called Harvest 1993 green coupons.

In addition to the blockade of roads, the committee has announced that silos, mills, bakeries, and other farming and food-producing facilities will be blockaded in the days to come and will remain under blockade until all their demands have been met.

The committee stresses that the organizers of the protest are only dissatisfied farmers, i.e. that no party or any ethnic group stands behind the blockade. The objective that the farmers wish to achieve by blockading the roads is to get what they have earned.